

Reagan gives \$20m aid to Honduras

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, responding to what Honduras called a large-scale Nicaraguan incursion into its territory (See page 8), provided Honduras with \$20 million worth of military equipment, a Senate spokesman said. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said only that Mr. Reagan was expected Tuesday to approve a Honduran request for \$20 million in "urgent" assistance. But Mark Helms, a spokesman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Mr. Reagan transferred the \$20 million from a Pentagon contingency fund in order to turn over U.S. equipment already inside Honduras to the Honduran military. In Managua, the Nicaraguan government on Tuesday denied that Nicaraguan troops had crossed into Honduras, claiming the reports were part of Mr. Reagan's "propaganda campaign" to get aid for the Contra rebels.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Amal claims Katyusha attacks

BEIRUT (AP) — A Shi'ite militia commander said on Tuesday his men fired 20 Katyusha rockets into northern Israeli settlements at dawn to avenge the shelling of South Lebanon's largest market town. Mahmoud Fakih, a leader of the powerful Amal militia in the south, said the barrage was aimed at the border settlements of Krayat Shmouna and Manara in the Gafilee panhandle. Mr. Fakih's statement came a day after he vowed cross-border assaults in retaliation for Monday's shelling of Nabatiyeh from gun positions inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. Three civilians, including a woman, were killed and 24 others wounded in Nabatiyeh. In another incident, a commando operating a Katyusha rocket launcher was killed by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen. Israel Radio reported.

Volume 11 Number 3130

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 1986, RAJAB 15, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Greek President Christos Sartzetakis on his country's Independence Day. In his cable King Hussein wished the Greek people further progress and prosperity.

Benjedid begins Moscow visit

MOSCOW (R) — Algerian leader Chadli Benjedid arrived in Moscow on Tuesday for an official visit likely to be dominated by the U.S.-Libyan conflict in the Mediterranean. The Soviet news agency TASS said he was met at Moscow airport by President Andrei Gromyko, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov and other top Kremlin officials. It was Mr. Benjedid's second trip to Moscow since taking office in February 1979 — the first was in 1981 — and his first chance to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Israelis arrest 6 in soldier's killing

TEL AVIV (AP) — A group of residents from the occupied West Bank has been arrested in connection with the killing of an Israeli soldier, the Israeli army said Tuesday. Haaretz newspaper said six people, including two women, were arrested. Israeli forces discovered the body of David Manos two weeks ago in a cave near the village of Deir Ballut. An inquiry showed Manos, a soldier in the regular army, was strangled to death in November 1984.

Collett in 'grave danger,' captors say

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnapped British journalist Alec Collett is suffering from severe kidney problems and is in "extreme danger," a statement purportedly issued by his captors on the first anniversary of his abduction said Tuesday night. The statement signed by the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims demanded the British government send dialysis equipment to treat the 64-year-old Briton who is a diabetic. The statement was delivered to the offices of two Beirut's leading dailies. Anonymous telephone callers read the same statement to other news offices in Beirut. (See related story on page 2).

Andrew, 'Fergie' to wed in summer

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth, will marry commoner Sarah Ferguson on July 23, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday. The wedding will take place in Westminster Abbey at 11:30 a.m. (10:30 GMT). The last royal wedding was almost exactly five years earlier when heir to the throne Prince Charles wed Lady Diana Spencer in St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981. Prince Andrew and his fiancée, both 26, announced their engagement on March 19 after weeks of frenzied press speculation. At the time, they said they wanted a summer wedding "to get it over with." The event has been squeezed into a very busy month for the Royal Family.

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Libya vows to defend itself; U.S. reports attacks

Combined agency dispatches

LIBYA VOWED on Tuesday to defend itself against U.S. attacks and threatened to turn the Mediterranean into a "sea of fire" and Washington said U.S. planes were attacking Libyan targets following Monday's confrontation.

Libya's official news agency reported anti-American demonstrations throughout the country and a radio commentator warned that "the Mediterranean will be turned into a sea of blood." The JANA news agency said Col. Qadhafi, in reply to White House statements that U.S. military manoeuvres would continue until the beginning of April in the Mediterranean, said: "We also declare that our brave confrontation will also continue and that the Jamahiriya (Libya) is not only defending itself at this moment, but the entire Arab Nation and its future."

U.S.-Libyan clashes in the Gulf of Sirte began on Monday when Washington said Libya had fired on U.S. naval forces. The Defence Department said Libyan forces had not opened fire on Monday. Spokesman Bob Sims told reporters that Libyan forces had been silent since the U.S. attack on Monday. He said the Libyans on Tuesday fired between six and 12

Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles at U.S. forces which had crossed a "line of death" drawn across the mouth of the gulf by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

Sims said the Libyan firing had occurred during a period of only 22 minutes on Tuesday, between 1252 GMT and 1314 GMT. He said there had been no Libyan shooting since the U.S. Sixth Fleet task force had begun attacks against Libyan naval vessels and a

missile site at the coastal town of Sirte.

Asked why U.S. forces had sunk or heavily damaged at least four Libyan patrol boats, including two on Monday, Sims said: "We have been given ample evidence of hostile Libyan intent both by missiles and surface ship movements in the past two days, and we are going to protect ourselves."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said two Libyan missile boats on Tuesday had approached within 40 miles — what he said was missile range — of U.S. warships.

"We don't let them get that close," he said.

Sims said U.S. A-7 Corsair strike jets from the aircraft carrier Saratoga had attacked the Soviet-supplied Sirte missile complex at 1154 GMT on Sunday after electronic emissions indicated partial repairs had been made following a similar strike on Tuesday.

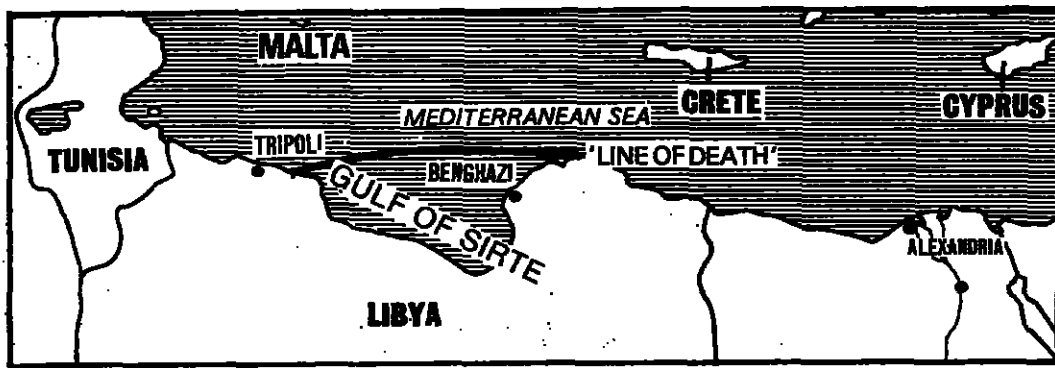
Tripoli said on Monday it had downed three U.S. warplanes — a claim denied by Washington — and reported an unsuccessful air attack on a Libyan civilian vessel.

Tripoli Radio said demonstrators shouting "Down with the USA" and threats to destroy the U.S. Sixth Fleet gathered in Tripoli near the Belgian embassy, which handles U.S. affairs in Libya.

A statement was read at the demonstration, declaring a maximum alert and announcing that the demonstrators had turned themselves into suicide squads.

"We are a nation that does not fear death or threats... let this crazy and failed actor know that

(Continued on page 5)



Soviets assail U.S. 'aggression'; most world nations voice concern

Combined agency dispatches

THE SOVIET Union on Tuesday charged the U.S. with an "act of piracy" violating international law in attacking Libyan forces while most world nations expressed alarm over possible escalation of the U.S.-Libyan hostilities.

Only Britain and Israel supported the U.S. action describing it as an act of "self-defence."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko said the U.S. attacks broke international laws and were "an obvious manifestation" of American aggressiveness against other states.

"The Soviet people and state condemn the actions of the U.S. military which not only destabilise the Mediterranean but threaten world security as well," he told a news conference.

Lomeiko said it was obvious that the United States had been seeking to provoke a military confrontation with Libya for months and the question of rights to enter the disputed Gulf of Sirte was a

pure pretext. He said the U.S. behaviour towards Libya was one of several actions that Moscow interpreted as "a provocation against the spirit of Geneva."

Moscow uses the expression to refer to understandings on lessening tension reached between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva last November.

The Soviet news agency TASS described the U.S. attack on Libyan boats and missile bases as "an act of open armed aggression."

"The U.S. military's act of piracy off the Libyan coast, which has violated all norms of international law, has caused outrage in the United States itself," TASS said.

TASS said arguments which Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger had used to justify the actions paralleled those which the Americans employed in the Gulf of Tonkin incident which preceded U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi strongly criticised U.S. manoeuvres in the Mediterranean

saying they carried a high risk and caused concern to Italy.

Mr. Craxi was addressing parliament after an emergency meeting of senior ministers to discuss the crisis in the Mediterranean. He said it was unacceptable that a dispute over the Gulf of Sirte should be dealt with militarily.

The prime minister said that Italy did not want war on its doorstep, adding that repeated U.S. exercises in the gulf "are not appropriate to the ends of establishing an international principle and contain elements of high risk which arouse concern."

Spain called for restraint in the conflict while the ruling Socialist Party reassured Spaniards that the country was not involved in the confrontation.

"The government is following developments in the Gulf of Sirte with great concern, deploring the clashes that have taken place and appeals to the moderation of the parties involved in order to stem a military escalation that would jeopardise stability in the Med-

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan, U.S. firm sign oil exploration agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Tuesday signed a profit-sharing agreement with a major American company for oil exploration in certain parts of the Kingdom.

Under the agreement, the American oil company AMOCO will explore for oil in the Jordan Valley and Azraq regions. Hamzeh and Wadi Rahel areas, where oil exploration is under way, are excluded from the agreement which was signed by Minister of Energy Hisham Al Khatib on the Jordanian side and on the American side by Mr. Peter Jordan, the company's vice president for operations in the Middle East and Africa, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The exploring company will be bound to conduct geological, geophysical and geochemical field studies during the seven-and-a-half-year agreement. It will also dig five exploratory wells.

The Natural Resources Authority has no future programmes for oil exploration in the regions included in the agreement.

Thatcher denies charges over \$3,400 share dealings

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told parliament on Tuesday that allegations she had engaged in improper share dealings while in office were "scandalous and scurrilous."

Mrs. Thatcher was answering questions on an article in the Mail on Sunday newspaper at the weekend that she made a £2,300 (\$3,400) profit on the sale of shares in Australia's Broken Hill property in 1983.

Such a deal would have broken the convention whereby serving ministers distance themselves from direct share deals, usually appointing independent trustees to manage the affairs.

Mrs. Thatcher said on Tuesday the Mail's charges were unfounded and outrageous.

"I have scrupulously observed the long-standing conventions governing the holding of shares by ministers," Mrs. Thatcher said in reply to a question by an opposition Labour parliamentarian.

Her office on Monday issued a statement that she had acquired a small number of shares in the Aus-

'Jordan's support for Iraq stems from its pan-Arab commitments'

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf war stems from the Kingdom's commitment to Arab charters in defence of Arab land and not against the Iranian people or the Iranian revolution, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

Prince Hassan, who was speaking at the opening session of an international symposium on the Iran-Iraq war entitled "No war, yes to peace," said Jordan also believes that "national independence in the region is one and all, as are national and regional security for all of the countries in the region."

The symposium is organised by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and is attended by representatives of Arab and international organisations. ALO member states and delegations representing Iranian parties opposed to the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The three-day gathering will review means to arrest the five-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war and bring peace between the two

belligerents.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech at the opening session:

"Since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war more than five years ago, efforts to end it have not ceased. Arab and Islamic countries, groups and organisations, shocked by what was clearly a destructive war that would leave nothing but catastrophic effects on the warring parties and the entire region, rushed to undo the damage and convince both sides to negotiate peacefully, in fulfilment of God Almighty's wish:

"All believers are but brothers. Bring your brothers together and fear God so that you may obtain Mercy."

"These efforts were well received and echoed by our brothers in Iraq, for Iraq seeks justice and does not fear a peaceful resolution, just as its army has proved not to fear war. But these same efforts have fallen on deaf ears on the part of the Iranian leadership, which is stubbornly set on a war that could only bring further destruction, disaster and fragmentation."

gementation."

"Our commitment to supporting Iraq is a commitment to Arab charters. Jordan is one of the founding states of the Arab League whose charter is based on Arab solidarity in times of war and peace. And the joint Arab defence agreement to which Jordan is a signatory, calls for supporting any Arab country faced with aggression. And has there been more vicious an attack than that which Iraq has faced all these years?"

"At a time when we support our brothers in Iraq, I ask God Almighty to enlighten Iran's leadership to the paths of wisdom, and I sincerely hope that the Iranian leaders will cease to indulge in any grand illusions, and here I mean the illusion of exporting their revolution to neighbouring nations and countries."

"And despite the fact that we, in Jordan, face a fierce enemy, numerous dangers, and constant challenges we do not for one moment hesitate to translate our stands into actions."

(Continued on page 4)

International symposium studies approach to end Iran-Iraq war

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Peaceful ways and means to end the 65-month old Iran-Iraq war is the main focus of discussion by a three-day international conference which opened its deliberations here on Tuesday.

The international symposium, entitled "No War, Yes for Peace" is sponsored by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), aims at focusing world attention on the social and economic impacts of the war in both countries and the continuing conflict's effect on regional economic cooperation in the area.

The conference, attended by more than 35 Arab and international organisations, also aims at mobilising all efforts and rallying international public opinion in all efforts to put an end to the war through peaceful negotiations.

Iraq and two parties from the Iranian opposition — the Parliament National Council of Resistance (NCR) and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) — are taking part in the symposium and have submitted working papers outlining the basis for a negotiated settlement between the two belligerents.

But the main paper, which will be the subject of detailed discussions on Wednesday, is a lengthy report prepared by the ALO on the social, economic, political and legal impacts and dimensions of the war.

According to the paper, the war has damaged the economic infrastructure of both countries and

has weakened regional cooperation. The utilisation of major part of the resources of both countries for war purposes has also disrupted the development process in both countries, the ALO paper said.

The report also underscored the social and psychological impacts of the war, mainly the disruption in the social balance in both countries from the death of thousands of men in the war.

On the political level the war has compelled both countries to seek international and regional alliances which contradicted their declared ideologies, the report said and cited as an example Iranian arms purchases from Israel despite pledges by the Iranian rulers to fight the Jewish state.

The war has serious legal impacts including the violation of international laws and charters which forbid the acquisition of land by force and torture and murder of prisoners of war.

At the outset of Tuesday's session, which was chaired by Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan, ALO Director Hashem Al Banani outlined the highlights of the ALO report and urged the conference participants to come out with suggestions which can contribute to the search for a peaceful end to the war.

Representatives of various countries and organisations who spoke in Tuesday's afternoon session emphasised the importance of halting the war and settling the disputes through direct or indirect peaceful negotiations.

The undersecretary of Iraq's Ministry of Labour and Social Works, Suheil Mohammad Saleh,

suggested that arbitration was the only means to settle the war which has inflicted heavy losses on both sides.

Mr. Saleh gave a chronological review of Iran's assaults on Iraqi territory and Tehran's various attempts to overthrow the Iraqi government through assassination attempts and bombings as well as land, sea and air attacks on Iraq. Iraq believed that a solution to the conflict should be based on peaceful coexistence and non-interference by either party in the other's internal affairs, Mr. Saleh said.

The representative of the Iranian NCR, which is led by Mujahadeen-e-Khalq leader Massoud Rajavi, urged the participants to endorse a seven-point peace plan formulated by the council in 1983.

Nader Ravangandi, deputy speaker of NCR, said his movement was committed to efforts on the basis of the plan to seek an end to the "tragedy" caused by the continuation of the war.

The peace plan, which was formulated following a meeting between Mr. Rajavi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Paris in January 1983, called for an immediate declaration of a ceasefire in air, land and sea.

The ceasefire should be followed by withdrawal of both countries' forces to the international borders, exchange of all prisoners of war and formulation of a peace treaty based on full respect for the national independence and sovereignty of both countries, according to the plan.

Mr. Ravangandi pointed out

(Continued on page 2)

Twin rocket attack raises doubts over Tokyo summit

TOKYO (Agencies) — Homemade rockets fired from parked cars hit the United States embassy and landed in the grounds of Tokyo's imperial palace on Tuesday, raising foreboding over safety at the approaching seven-nation summit.

Police said nobody was hurt and damage was minor. Officials at the palace said 64-year-old Emperor Hirohito slept on through his after-lunch nap when two rockets blasted in across his moat.

Prime suspects were members of the extreme left-wing Chukaku-Ha movement which has vowed to cause havoc at the summit in May and wreck the celebration on April 29 of Emperor Hirohito's 60 years on the throne. Police said they were hunting a man in white clothes seen driving a car which crashed through a checkpoint in south east Tokyo.

"Such a reckless act is a grave challenge to democracy," said a statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda. "We must see nothing like this happens at the summit."

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nak-

asone told reporters: "We must take stringent precautions." A police officer on the scene of the embassy attack said two rockets were apparently launched from the trunk of a car parked in front of a building housing the Kyodo News Service, located across a street from the embassy building.

The rockets consisted of spray cans filled with petrol and mounted atop wooden sticks. They were fired from launchers made of iron piping, police said.

This kind of missile has been used before by Chukaku-Ha and other radical groups protesting about a proposed extension to Tokyo's Narita international airport.

Chukaku-Ha split off from the Japan Communist Party because they disapproved of the party's non-violent attitude towards effecting the downfall of capitalism. The May summit of seven industrial nations is regarded by radical leftists as a gathering of capitalists. And they regard Emperor Hirohito as the author of Japan's wars in the 1930s and 1940s.

Britain, UNRWA urge release of Alec Collett

BEIRUT (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Tuesday urged the release of British journalist Alec Collett, kidnapped near Beirut exactly a year ago.

"There can be no justification for continuing to hold this innocent man," Sir Geoffrey said in a statement distributed here. "Alec Collett is no longer young and is not in the best of health. He is a man of peace, known for his genuine sympathy for the Palestinian cause."

Collett, a 64-year-old diabetic, was seized by gunmen of the shadowy "Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims" from his U.N.-marked car just south of Beirut last March 25.

He was reporting for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) on how Palestinians were being treated by Israeli troops then occupying most of South Lebanon.

"His long captivity must have placed him under tremendous strain," said Sir Geoffrey.

British Ambassador John Gray appealed Tuesday for the release of Collett and urged the extremists to contact him.

The envoy made the appeal in a statement published in Beirut's leading *Al Nahar* daily as the first anniversary of Collett's abduction marked another macabre milestone in Lebanon's long-running hostage drama.

"In the name of the British people, I call on those responsible for Collett's kidnapping to release him immediately," Mr. Gray said.

"I also call on them to contact me on the 812849 and 410596 numbers. I call on the kidnappers to call us," he said.

Collett was kidnapped by gunmen in Beirut's southern outskirts on March 25 last year. He is the

fifth foreigner missing in Lebanon to have been held hostage for more than a year.

The kidnappers have demanded the release of five Arabs convicted in London for the attempted assassination of Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov in June, 1982.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refuses to free the men.

The last word on Collett came in a video tape delivered to *Al Nahar* last December.

"Collett's family, I and those who are trying to win his release were pleased to see him alive and in good health," Mr. Gray's statement said.

"We in Britain know the critical moments the abductors are passing through," it added.

"What's more tragic in his case is that he (Collett) was on a humanitarian mission in Lebanon for the Palestinian and other people," Mr. Gray noted.

"Collett is a well-educated person who sought to help people," he said, referring to Collett's articles on the hardships the Lebanese endured because of Israel's 1982 invasion.

"His release will serve both the Palestinian and the Arab cause," the statement said.

In a separate statement, UNRWA Director Robert Gallagher said Collett "was working for us to publicise the devotion to duty of our staff in working to provide humanitarian services under difficult conditions."

"His abduction and his continued detention is inexplicable," the statement said.

"We have followed up every

lead that we thought might help secure his release. But without success ... on behalf of the UNRWA staff in Lebanon I appeal to whoever is holding Mr. Collett to release him and end this year of torment for him and his family," Mr. Gallagher's statement added.

After a year as a hostage, Collett joins two Americans and two Frenchmen who have all been in captivity for more than 12 months.

The others are held by the Iranian-linked Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, a Shiite Muslim fundamentalist organisation that is seeking the release of 17 comrades jailed in Kuwait and an end to French arms supplies to Iraq, Iran's enemy in the Gulf war.

U.S. diplomat William Buckley, one of six missing Americans, was kidnapped on March 16, 1984.

But his fate remains a mystery. Islamic Jihad claimed on Oct. 4 it killed Buckley in retaliation for alleged U.S. complicity in an Israeli air raid on a Palestinian headquarters in Tunis.

Islamic Jihad produced blurred photos of what it claimed was Buckley's body. But no corpse has yet been found.

Another American, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, began his second year in captivity on March 16.

French diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton were kidnapped on March 22 last year.

Collett's daughter, London radio journalist Sue Grant, visited Beirut last July in a vain attempt to find her father.

Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy seeking to free the Americans, has taken up Collett's case in visits to Lebanon last year.

3 killed in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A two-year-old boy and two other people were reported killed when Lebanese militias battled across Beirut's "Green Line" front.

The toddler was hit by sniper fire outside his home in the Christian suburb of Ain Al Rummaneh and died in hospital, the French-language newspaper *Le Reveil* said Tuesday.

As *Safir* newspaper said two people died and 10 were hurt when Falangist army gunners pounded Shiite Muslim suburbs.

Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio said suburbs in Christian east Beirut were shelled for three hours, but had no reports of casualties.

The upsurge in fighting came as the Lebanese army, which mans frontline positions on the eastern side of the Green Line, warned it would silence guns firing at its positions.

An army communiqué said a building held by troops had been set ablaze by a Soviet-made Grad rocket and rockets had also slammed into an army staff post in the Hazmieh suburb.

"These attacks are... provocations against the army. The army command knows who is behind them and warns those responsible that it will hit back at the sources of firing to silence them," the communiqué said.

The deaths brought to 38 the number of people, mostly civilians, killed this month in fighting in and around Beirut.

Persistent outbreaks of random shelling have raised fears among Beirut residents of a new explosion of sectarian violence amid continued deadlock in peace efforts.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni Muslim, hinted Monday a new compromise was needed to break the impasse.

"The settlement depends on our will alone and on what we can do through the tripartite (peace) accord, or any other agreement among the Lebanese under Syrian auspices," he said.

Pro-Syrian militia leaders had previously rejected proposals to amend the reform pact signed by Falangist and opposition militia chiefs in Damascus last December.

President Amin Gemayel, a Christian, has been rebuffed by Syrian leaders for his part in scuttling the accord. Recent efforts by Vatican emissaries to revive dialogue with Damascus have not borne fruit.

In South Lebanon, sources in the Shiite *Al Milla* militia told Beirut's *Al Nahar* newspaper that it was holding four guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat despite claims they died in a battle inside Israel last week.

The sources said Amal was "investigating" the commandos of the Palestine National Liberation Army-Southern Area Command, which on Friday said four of its fighters had been killed in northern Israel with four Israeli soldiers they had captured.

Libyan boat sunk by U.S. was French-built

WASHINGTON (R) — The Libyan Navy vessel reported destroyed by U.S. planes was a small but speedy French-built missile-carrier that helped form the backbone of the Libyan fleet, according to available military data.

In announcing details of the clash in which a jet fighter from the U.S. naval task force operating off Libya's coast destroyed the Libyan vessel with an air-to-surface missile, Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger identified the target craft as a Combatant class fast attack boat.

According to "Jane's fighting ships," an authoritative source book on weaponry, Libya had at least 10 Combatant II fast attack boats produced in the late 1970s and early 1980s by the CMN Cherbourg Shipyard in France.

Jane's described the vessels as 311 tons fully loaded, about 49 metres long, capable of making up to 39 knots and armed with four Otomat surface-to-surface missiles, one 76 mm gun and two 40 mm guns.

U.S. officials said the Libyan boat had not actually attacked U.S. ships but was closing in on them in a manner U.S. officers considered dangerous.

Military experts say sea battles fought in the 1982 Falkland Islands war between Britain and Argentina showed that large warships can be sunk by missiles fired from tiny boats.

Jane's said the normal crew complement of a Combatant was 27. U.S. spokesmen said it appeared there were no survivors aboard the ship attacked Monday.

The military flare-up Monday between the United States and Libya in the Gulf of Sirte, is the most serious incident involving the two countries since two U.S. F-14 planes shot down two Soviet-built Libyan SU-22s over the Gulf in August, 1981.

The following is a brief chronology of major incidents that have brought a steady deterioration in relations between the United States and Libya in recent years:

Dec. 2, 1979 — a mob chanting support for Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini sets fire to the U.S. embassy in Tripoli.

Feb. 6, 1980 — the United States virtually closes down its Tripoli embassy following attacks on two

French missions in Libya.

April-May 1980 — Washington expels Libyan diplomats amid charges that Tripoli was attempting to intimidate Libyan students in the United States and was responsible for the murder of Libyans in Europe.

May 6, 1981 — The U.S. government closes down the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Washington and expels staff, accusing them of conduct contrary to international accepted standards of diplomatic behaviour.

Aug. 19, 1981 — Two U.S. F-14s shoot down two Soviet-built Libyan SU-22s over the Gulf of Sirte claimed by Libya as territorial waters. United States says the Gulf is in international waters and that Libyan planes fired first.

November 1981 — Reports surface that Libya has sent "hit squads" to America to assassinate President Reagan, Vice President George Bush and other top officials. Government beefs up security around public buildings.

Dec. 11, 1981 — Washington restricts the use of American passports for travel to Libya.

March 10, 1982 — The U.S. government announces a ban on

imports of Libyan crude oil.

February, 1983 — Washington sends four AWAC radar planes to Egypt amid reports of Libyan military build-up near its border with Sudan. Washington says F-14s jets chased off two Libyan MiG-23s that approached the carrier *Nimitz* near the Gulf of Sirte.

March, 1984 — U.S. export controls are expanded to bar future exports to Libya's Ras Lanuf petrochemical complex.

June 4, 1985 — Washington expels Libyan U.N. mission diplomat, claiming he was involved in Libyan-directed plot against U.S. dissidents in the United States.

Dec. 17, 1985 — Nineteen people are killed in separate guerrilla attacks at Vienna and Rome airports. President Reagan accuses Libya of complicity in the assaults, which were carried out by Arab gunmen.

Jan. 7, 1986 — Reagan severs all economic ties with Libya and orders some 1,000 Americans there to return home.

Jan. 8, 1986 — Washington freezes Libyan government assets in American banks and their subsidiaries abroad.

Egypt renews commitment to peace treaty

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt renewed on Tuesday its commitment to the peace treaty with Israel on the 7th anniversary of its signing.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali also vowed that Egypt will pursue efforts to achieve overall Arab-Israeli peace.

The American-mediated treaty, the first between Israel and an Arab state, was signed in Washington on March 26, 1979.

"The signing was an important event in the history of Egypt and the Middle East and a basic step toward a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the region," Dr. Ghali said in a statement distributed by the state-controlled Middle East News Agency.

Iraq to retaliate after Iranian raids on civilians

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq threatened Tuesday to retaliate for Iranian air raids on Iraqi residential areas.

"Iraq will never permit the Iranian aggressors to strike residential areas in Iraq and threaten lives of its civilians," a spokesman for the Iraqi Armed Forces said.

Iran said last Saturday its warplanes had raided an iron plant at the south east Iraqi town of Anarrah. Baghdad denied there was such a plant there and accused Iran of hitting a residential area, killing a 10-year-old child and wounding six civilians.

Murphy, Siniora discuss Mideast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman announced that a prominent West Bank Palestinian figure, Hanna Siniora, met on March 22 with Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

"They discussed the peace process, regional developments, and the quality of life of Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza," the deputy spokesman said.

"I've seen that story," the deputy spokesman said. "There's nothing new."

A West Bank editor, Mr. Sin-

iora has been suggested as a possible member of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to engage in peace negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Redman was asked for comment about a report that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) has sent to the United States a three-point proposal designed to rejuvenate the Middle East peace process.

"I've seen that story," the deputy spokesman said. "There's nothing new."

"What is happening is that

Symposium seeks ways to end Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

that the war has resulted in more than a million dead and wounded, rendered three million people homeless and caused more than \$350 billion in damages to Iran.

He said that the Iranian resistance movement against the Tehran regime has "offered and given in sacrifice 50,000 of its members, and supporters, and 140,000 political prisoners, to push forward the policy of peace and to overthrow" the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mr. Ravangani said that the NCR, particularly underground Mujahideen cells, has escalated its political and military offensive against the Iranian government.

He said that attacks staged by Mujahideen units have resulted in the destruction of 200 centres used for military purposes by the Iranian government.

Hassan Sharfati, a representative of the DPK, told the conference that the war has inflicted enormous losses on Iran.

According to available data, this war has brought about one million casualties and immense material loss estimated at about \$150 billion," Mr. Sharfati said.

The Kurdish leader said that contrary to claims by the Iranian rulers that they support the Palestinian struggle "it was this war that had enabled Israel to occupy

Lebanon and deal a heavy blow to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

He scoffed at declarations by the Iranian rulers that their goal was to liberate Jerusalem. "It would be surprising if the weapons given to the Islamic Republic of Iran by Israel were intended for 'liberating Al Quds (Jerusalem)'," he said.

Mr. Sharfati said the goal of the Iranian regime was to install a puppet regime in Iraq.

The Iranian regime was seeking to occupy Iraqi territories, "no matter how small, to transfer the so-called high Islamic council of Iraq (from Tehran to Baghdad) and officially declare the establishment of an Islamic republic of Iraq," he said.

Mr. Jawad Ghali, head of the Arab League Department of Socio-Economic Affairs, proposed that an international Arab day be proclaimed in support of and solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Mr. Ghali said regional rallies as well as collection of donations could be organised during the proposed day. This proposal was endorsed by Mr. Haj Hassan. The minister said that the meeting will include Mr. Ghali's suggestion in the final recommendations of the conference after a suitable working formula was worked out.

Mr. Ghali also referred to the Arab League's position on the Gulf war and said the league denounced the Iranian aggression in all its forms, "be it through military interference, constant threats to neighbouring Gulf countries or other forms of blackmail."

"The effects of this ferocious war have far exceeded the reasons which sparked it. It has resulted in a strategic imbalance between the Arab World and Israel in the Arab confrontation of Israel's aggression on Arab soil and has resulted in sharp inter-Arab disputes due to the various stands each Arab government is taking on the Iran-Iraq war," he said.

Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh suggested to the conference that the conflict be approached from an Islamic angle. "We should patch the differences between the two warring countries on the basis of Islam, which binds the two brotherly people," Sheikh Saeh added.

The 80-year-old PNC speaker presented a three-point formula to end the war. The formula called for an immediate end to all violent hostilities followed by both parties' withdrawal to the international boundaries to pave the way for direct or indirect negotiations to end the problem.

Maghreb realignment 'in the offing'

ALGIERS (R) — Libya is seeking union with Algeria which could signal a realignment in North Africa after many short-lived Libyan attempts at union with Arab countries.

The five Arab states in the region have been lined up in two camps — Libya and Morocco on one side, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania on the other.

The alignment may be about to change as a result of a two-day visit to Libya this week by Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi.

A statement reported later by Algeria's News Agency APS, quoted Maj. Abdul Salam Jalloud, Libya's second-in-command, as having said Libyan and Algerian leaders were seeking to achieve "a union as a prelude to the unity of the Arab Maghreb (North Africa) and the Arab Nation."

By attributing the comments about a union to Maj. Jalloud, it left unclear whether Algeria was ready to take the plunge.

The statement added that the two sides agreed to "strengthen joint action to meet the two people's aspirations for unity and progress."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has previously signed short-lived union agreements with Egypt, Syria, Chad, Sudan and Tunisia.

In August 1984, he signed a treaty of union with King Hassan of Morocco.

The Libyan-Moroccan alliance, still in force but dormant, was regarded in Algeria as an anti-Algerian axis to counter a treaty signed a year earlier by Algeria and Tunisia and later by Mauritania.

It was Libya that took the initiative late last year to seek a rapprochement. Algeria reacted cautiously to Tripoli's advances at first.

A few weeks ago, Col. Qadhafi said he was seeking a union with Algeria but his comment was ignored by the official Algerian press.

In the finely-balanced diplomatic game played by the five countries, Algeria has to take into account its relations with Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco in the light of its tug-of-war with Rabat over the Western Sahara.

Libyan Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Al Mansour arrived in Casablanca Monday with a mes-

sage from Col. Qadhafi to King Hassan, the Moroccan News Agency MAP reported.

While Mr. Brahimi was in Tripoli, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali made a short visit to Algiers and the two countries agreed to intensify their political cooperation.

Tunis broke off diplomatic relations with Tripoli last year after Libya expelled huge numbers of Tunisian migrant workers and relations remain frosty.

During the crisis, Algeria strongly supported Tunisia.

APS said that as a result of Mr. Brahimi's visit to Tripoli, cooperation between Algeria and Libya would be improved and trade exchanges would increase 10-fold this year.

The two countries agreed to set up joint companies for oil exploration, drilling and construction.

They discussed possible industrial cooperation in projects such as an Algerian car factory and aluminium plants in Libya.

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16:45 Children's Programme
17:35 Cartoons
18:00 Documentary
18:20 Arabic Series
19:20 Documentary
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:30 Documentary
21:55 Tomorrow's programmes
22:00 Wrestling
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Transcontinental (French)
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Company
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:15 Falcon Crest — Betrayal

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08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:45 Instrumentals
16:50 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Over a Cup of Tea
18:30 Arab Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
A French exhibition on film directing at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27)
An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30)
French exhibition "M.D. portrait de Femme" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27)
A handicraft exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belarussia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30)
An exhibition with originals about the work of the German Artist Christian Schud at the Goethe Institute (until April 3)

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Y.W.C.A. - 664793
Y.W.M.A. - 664251
Amman Municipal Library - 637111
University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Ghar (Crusader Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel: 624598.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lweideh, 673440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 671334.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), 811295.

Prince Hassan confers with IDB president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office Tuesday with Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, president of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which has just concluded its 10th annual conference in Amman.

Dr. Ali voiced his appreciation to Prince Hassan for patronising the conference and delivering the major speech to the delegates. He and Prince Hassan also discussed a number of subjects which are of concern to Jordan's financial institutions and the IDB. Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem attended the meeting.

Dr. Ali was also received by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Dr. Ali expressed the IDB's appreciation to Jordan for hosting the conference. He also presented the prime minister with a copy of the conference's resolutions and recommendations. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib attended the meeting.

JDA organises national conference on dentistry

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A number of Jordanian and international dentists will participate in the 5th national dental congress, which will be held on Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) President Walid Maraqa said Tuesday.

Dr. Maraqa said that 40 working papers to be presented by leading dentists will be discussed during the four-day congress which has been organised by the JDA. The first and second days of the congress will be dedicated to intensifying special courses on maxillofacial surgery and the applications of advanced dental materials. The University of Jordan will host the first course, to be given by an eminent Greek dentist and Yarmouk University will host the second course, said Dr. Maraqa.

The working papers, according to the JDA president, will focus on maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, dental crowns and bridges, conservative dentistry and endodontology.

Participants in the courses will obtain papers certifying that they have taken the subject, he added.

The congress will host delegates from England, the United States, Greece, Syria, Egypt and Iraq in addition to local representatives from the Royal Medical Services, the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University and the private sector.

A limited number of students are enrolled in the Dentistry Faculty of the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. Dentistry was only introduced as a university course two years ago in both universities and Dr. Maraqa explained that the delay in introducing the subject was due to the relatively high cost of such a project. He also said that there was no urgent need for a faculty as Jordan used to have a surplus of dentistry graduates.

The JDA has 1025 dentists registered as members. The scientific lectures at the congress will be tabulated in a booklet to be used as a reference document for dentists, Dr. Maraqa concluded.



QUEEN VISITS MAFRAQ: Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opens a vocational training centre at Mafrqa where local youths will be trained in carpentry and aluminium works. The Queen also opened an industrial exhibition in the region and visited a kindergarten school. Earlier Queen Noor toured a number of projects designed to promote the role and standards of local women. The Queen visited a local workshop where she graduated 138 local young women who have completed courses in typing and dress making. The prime minister's wife accompanied the Queen on her tour. (Petra photo).

Crown Prince attends second session of symposium on remote sensing

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-day Franco-Jordanian symposium Tuesday reviewed several technical working papers submitted by French and Jordanian specialists on various aspects of the applications of remote-sensing technology in the Middle East region.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended part of Tuesday's session and urged delegates to apply remote sensing in various fields. Remote sensing can be useful in agriculture, soil maintenance operations and other related areas with the purpose of solving agricultural problems and helping to ensure food security, Prince Hassan said.

Mr. Pausader of the French institute of national geography presented one of the papers. It dealt with applications of remote sensing in space maps and acquisition and storage of data for cartographic purposes. The paper presented a review of how remote sensing and satellite photography could initiate and maintain a process of mapping, using satellite images and topographic data. Such a combination of satellite images and data could form the basis for a permanent geographic data base which could be topped with new information as and when acquired, the paper said.

The second paper presented to the symposium on Tuesday was prepared by Dr. Abdul Rahim Masadeh of the Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC). The paper dealt with ways and means to utilise satellite images and the interpretation of such images in organising urban information systems.

Mr. Pausader also presented a second paper on the same theme as dealt with by Dr. Masadeh but delving in detail into applications of remote sensing technology in urban management.

Geographic information on the Red Sea

Two other French experts and Dr. Dureid Mahasneh of the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) presented details of how high-resolution remote sensing was helping Jordan prepare a

comprehensive geographic information system on the Jordanian Red Sea coast. French and Jordanian experts are currently working on the project which is expected to bring into focus the coral reefs of Aqaba and the phenomenon behind the formation of the reefs and related aspects of natural life along the Aqaba coast.

Dr. Marwan Muasher of the Ministry of Planning presented a highly technical working paper on how remote sensing technology could be applied in determining environmental factors in the region. Dr. Muasher's paper, with the help of slides and charts, outlined how Saudi Arabia has been using remote sensing technology to monitor land use in eastern parts of the kingdom as well as pollution in the Gulf.

The paper recalled that the Saudi University of Petroleum and Minerals monitored the 1983 oil spill in Iran's Nowruz oilfield. Satellite images of the spill in Gulf waters were available to the university's laboratory through a ground receiving station in Jeddah, Dr. Muasher said. The project helped Saudi Arabia keep a close watch on the extent of the oil spill on a daily basis. Estimates of the spill varied between 500 to 10,000 barrels per day, some of it burning and the rest spreading over the water.

Oil spills

Citing the technical advantages of having access of satellite images, Dr. Muasher recalled that since the Nowruz oil field was within the Iran-Iraq war zone, Saudi Arabia or any other party interested in the spill had few alternatives to monitor the spill and observe its flow as well as monitor its effects on marine life and other hazards.

The satellite images available to Saudi Arabia were beamed to earth by the American Landsat satellite. The U.S. project had been the major source of satellite photographs for Middle Eastern countries, until France launched its "Spot" satellite into orbit last month. The "Spot" project is technically more advanced than its U.S. counterpart, according to French experts.

Saudi Arabia has entered an agreement with France to set up a "Spot" receiving station within its present facilities for "Landsat"

images. The station, when completed, could process both "Landsat" and "Spot" images.

In his working paper, Dr. Muasher reviewed the in-depth technical advantage, or the absence of it, in applying satellite images to monitor, environmental characteristics of the earth, with special emphasis on water. The Saudi experience in dealing with the Nowruz oil spill showed that data acquired through "Landsat" was "useful, but not nearly sufficient in itself," he said.

"More ancillary data would have increased its effectiveness," Dr. Muasher continued. "More analysis, accounting for the atmospheric and hydrological conditions observed in the Gulf, has to be done before any conclusive results can be reached on the limits of (satellite images) usefulness" in determining environmental characteristics, he concluded.

In Tuesday's afternoon session of the symposium, Meteorological Department Director Ali Abanda reviewed applications of remote sensing and satellite images in monitoring weather conditions. Briefly outlining methods of interpreting satellite images into weather data and reviewing the uses of weather satellites already in orbit, Dr. Abanda expressed hope that the "rapid development of weather satellites indicates that our understanding of weather and climate will improve remarkably in the near future to enable us to make accurate and long-range weather forecasts."

On Wednesday, the symposium tackles several topics of prime importance to Jordan. Papers to be presented during the day include:

— "Geological application of remote sensing in Jordan," by Dr. Shaker Mughel of the University of Jordan;

— "Application in photo interpretation method in geomorphological surveys in Jordan," by Dr. Yahia Farhan of the University of Jordan;

— "Value of Landsat image to geological mapping and exploration for natural resources in Jordan," by Mr. Basam Alsona of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA); and

— "Remote sensing for Jordan and neighbouring countries," by Dr. Hazeel Al Shaweeh.

Jordan Valley water reserves getting low, JVA president says

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Director General Munther Haddadin said Tuesday that reserves of water in dams and in the East Ghor Canal are now less than the quantity needed for irrigation in the Jordan Valley and therefore close cooperation between the JVA and farmers is required if the present difficult circumstances are to be overcome.

Dr. Haddadin was speaking during a meeting in Deir Alla with farmers from the Jordan Valley and which was attended by Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhan and director general of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO), Mr. Marwan Dudin.

Dr. Haddadin said the pumping of water from Deir Alla to Amman has stopped since March 5 in view of the limited amounts of water in the Jordan Valley since this water is needed to irrigate the land.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Dakhan said that the government has introduced amendments to a number of laws pertaining to agriculture in order to promote production. He said that the farmers in the region have been exempted from paying certain fees and will receive compensation in case their crops are damaged due to forces beyond

their control or due to low prices.

Mr. Dudin who spoke later, said that AMPCO has been purchasing crops from farmers who follow the cropping system set by the Ministry of Agriculture and added that the company has been forwarding them for local consumption or export. The Jordanian government has concluded a deal with the Syrian government to export some 22,000 tonnes of tomatoes to Syria during 1986 and will absorb additional quantities for processing at the tomato paste factory owned by AMPCO, Mr. Dudin said.

AMPCO, he said, provides farmers with all possible facilities and charges the Amman central market place the highest prices for crops to ensure maximum benefits to the farmer.

Also addressing the meeting were the directors general of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Jordan Co-

operative Organisation (JCO). They said that the problem of marketing crops could be solved by adopting the agricultural patterns system on a wide scale to include all types of vegetables and crops and they added this would ensure enough product for local consumption and for export.

They said that the low prices and the presence of pests have rendered farmers unable to pay back their debts to the ACC. Several local officials and Ministry of Agriculture officials attended the meeting.

Also in Deir Alla a meeting was held at the Arda Marketing Centre to discuss the subject of spraying crops with pesticides and the problem of rodents. Dr. Haddadin and Balqa Governor Mijhem Khreisha attended the meeting during which rat poison was distributed to farmers.

Discussion at the meeting touched on the possibility of granting municipal and village councils the authority to issue licences for building and assigning plots of land for building schools and public gardens. They also discussed the water problem in the Jordan Valley and assigning a piece of land at Deir Alla for dumping garbage. Heads of municipal and village councils as well as local officials were present at the meeting.

World Bank expects APC to recover, make profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has passed through a critical stage and is expected to start making profits in the coming year, according to a World Bank report quoted Tuesday by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. The report said that the APC will start making profits which will cover its losses sustained between 1983 and 1985 and this recovery process will take up to 1990 to complete.

The report followed a visit to Jordan by a World Bank team between March 12 and 14 to make an evaluation of the APC projects and to help finance the modernisation of the plant, situated near the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

The report also said that the APC plans to introduce improvements between 1986 and 1987 which will cost the company nearly \$20 million. The new project is designed to enable the company to produce up to 1.2 million tonnes of potash in 1987.

Ministry plans to introduce 24-hour postal service soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications will shortly introduce a 24-hour guaranteed postal service in Jordan, initially on a limited basis and then to be expanded to include the largest possible number of world countries. This was announced in Amman Tuesday by Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein who said that at first Jordan's fast postal service will be linked to a limited number of Arab countries which have already adopted the system and then other world countries will later be included.

All postal material channelled through this service will be guaranteed to arrive at its destination in 24 hours time, under normal operating circumstances, the minister said.

According to Mr. Hussein, the cabinet endorsed the new arrangement during its session last Saturday and also approved a tariff of rates to be charged for the service.

He said that world countries have been divided into three groups similar to the arrangement fol-

lowed in the ordinary postal service. The sender will be charged JD 6 for the first 500 grammes or part of this weight and JD 2 for every additional 500 grammes for a postal item sent to Arab countries and Pakistan, the minister said. Items posted to countries in Europe, Asia and Africa will be charged JD 9 for the first 500 grammes and JD 3 for additional weights, he continued. The minister said that other countries charge JD 12 for the first 500 grammes and an additional JD 4 for every extra 500 grammes or part of this weight.

The minister expects that this new service will be popular in view of the increasing demand for fast postal services in the industrial and trade sectors in Jordan in addition to government business. At the beginning the ministry will confine this service to Amman and will be offering speedy delivery to incoming mail and outgoing mail at the Amman central post office which has been entrusted with handling the service for the time being. The minister did not specify exactly when the service is expected to go into operation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves envoy's appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving the appointment of Mr. Jamal Khotat as minister plenipotentiary and non-resident ambassador to Thailand. Mr. Khotat is also Jordan's ambassador to India.

Jordanian consulate to open in Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to open a Jordanian consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Jordanian embassy is located in Riyadh.

Syrian trade official concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Ahmad Al Dabbas, under secretary of the Syrian Ministry of Internal Trade, Tuesday left for Damascus. During his visit to Jordan Mr. Dabbas signed minutes of a joint Jordanian-Syrian standing committee meeting on promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries. The minutes provide for each country to exchange goods worth JD 20 million during 1986 and to establish Syrian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Damascus. The agreement was reached during talks between the two sides which were co-chaired by Mr. Dabbas and his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Al Saqqaf.

Military attaches visit PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — Military attaches at a number of foreign embassies in Amman Tuesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with Major General Issa Al Umari, assistant public security director for operations and planning and senior police officers. They were briefed on the department's duties and programmes and the role it plays in serving the local community. Later the group visited the Badia police headquarters and were briefed on their work and duty and they also called at the Princess Basma women's police training institute.

Haj Hassan opens paintings of war display

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday opened an art exhibition at the Amra Hotel in Amman on the occasion of an international conference which is being held there to discuss ways of stopping the Gulf war. On display are photographs and paintings depicting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iraqi troops at the war front and also scenes of destruction caused by Iranian attacks on Iraqi residential areas.

Shaka'a meets U.S. judges

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Riyadh Al Shaka'a Tuesday conferred in his office with a delegation of judges from the United States. They discussed a number of judicial and legal affairs. During the meeting, the minister spoke about Jordan's laws and the judiciary system and answered questions on the subject.

Rotary club to join vaccination campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Rotary Federation (IRF) has decided to include Jordan in its international vaccination campaign against polio. An IRF spokesman said that the Amman Rotary Club will cooperate with the Health Ministry in Amman in carrying out this campaign and will make necessary contacts through a specialised committee.

Staff at Alia, ministry win tourism award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Miss Norma Qarain, director of customer relations at Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Miss Hiyam Al Khatib, who is in-charge of tourist marketing at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, have received the International Award of Tourism. The presentation of the awards took place at Berlin's international tourism festival earlier this month. According to an Alia press release, the awards were given in recognition of the aptitude, competence, experience and dedication of the two officials.

Ballet Rambert to perform in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Ballet Rambert, a British dance company will perform for two nights at the Royal Cultural Centre on March 30 and 31.

Ballet Rambert is Britain's oldest dance company which is said to be one of the youngest and freshest. The classic company which has toured widely in Britain and abroad is known for performing its own productions of ballets from the classical repertoire such as Giselle, Don Quixote and Coppelia.

According to a press release issued by the British Council in Amman, some of the greatest dancers and choreographers in Britain have emerged from this company.

"The public of Amman will be treated to a high-tech production with superb back-drop and dynamic lighting sequences," the press release said.

The full company of 37 members will be in Amman to perform four works: "Sergeant Early's Dream," which is accompanied by British, American and Irish folk songs. This performance was described as being able to "mix moods with delicacy, linking its episodes and encounters with a lovely fluency of movement." The ballet is handsome, subtly made and the company are splendid in it.

"Dangerous Liaisons," another work to be performed here, was

first performed in Southampton, England in 1985 and was also reviewed favourably according to the press release. The title is taken from the music which is an electronic composition by Simon Waters. The dance, mainly arranged for two trrios, contains alternate passages of fast, dense activity with abrupt pauses. The piece is only 12 minutes long.

The company will also perform "It's a Raggy Waltz," and "Death and the Maiden" which is set to a Schubert string quartet. "The programme aims at a blend of traditional and modern dance," the release said.



Ballet Rambert: Death and the Maiden

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It will give an accurate and up-to-

date listing of all commercial telephone numbers throughout Jordan.

Each listing will include the full name, address and telephone numbers of the subscriber. The book will be divided into two sections — Arabic and English.

Each section will start with the following information:

- Basic facts about Jordan.
- Government departments.
- Services from the Ministry of Communications.
- International Calls.
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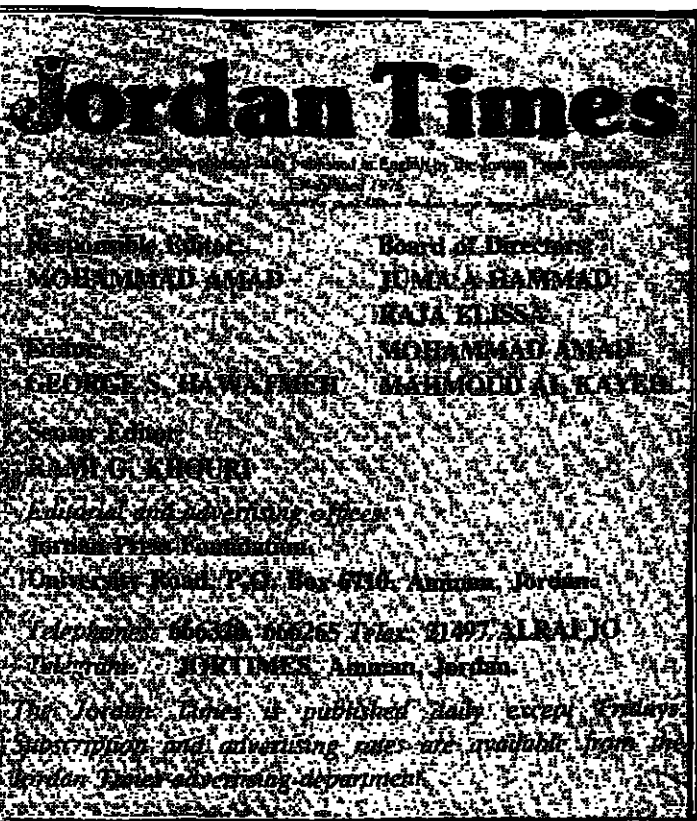
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Qadhafi, revered at home, becomes U.S. target

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, who propagates a blend of revolutionary Islam and nationalism, is revered at home but reviled by Western and some other leaders as a dangerous troublemaker.

Since seizing power in 1969 at the age of 27, he has been a provocative figure to the West and to moderate Muslim governments.

Western and Arab governments accuse him of backing guerrilla groups responsible for airport massacres and hijacks, of sending hit-squads abroad to kill his opponents and of destabilising pro-Western governments in Africa.

Born in the desert to nomadic parents, Qadhafi wrested control of the North African country when he and a handful of junior officers deposed the pro-Western regime of King Idris in September 1969.

In the 1970s he formulated his "Third Universal Theory", a middle road between Communism and capitalism. Meant as a guide for all humanity, it was embodied in a set of "Green Books" similar to the thoughts of former Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung.

Few leaders since World War Two have attracted such verbal abuse. U.S. President Ronald Reagan called him a terrorist, and Vice-President George Bush said he was "an egomaniac who would trigger world war three just to make headlines."

Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat described Qadhafi as "100 per cent mad" and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres called him "One of the most awful phenomena of our times."

Qadhafi, despite his high profile, remains an enigma both personally and politically. While he advocates a simple lifestyle, diplomats describe him as a man who takes pains with his appearance, with a preference for Italian-made clothes.

Tripoli is festooned with larger-than-life photographs of "the leader," as he is called in Libya, where he is credited by both supporters and opponents with eradicating poverty.

Before the Qadhafi era Libya was known for little more than its oil wealth and the fact that its desert was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of World War Two.

Now the oil boom of the 1970s is over. Libya is trying to cope with austerity brought on by declining oil revenues as a result of the glut on world markets.

Qadhafi has consistently sought to foster Arab unity, but remains largely isolated even within the Arab World.

He is a vehement critic of capitalism and has maintained good relations with the Communist bloc.

Libya is one of the Soviet Union's major arms customers, and in late 1985 began installing Soviet SAM-5 long-range missiles in what Washington termed a "significant and dangerous escalation of the Soviet-Libyan arms relationship."

Qadhafi began a military build-up from the start of his rule, and by 1986 his 58,000-man army had more than 4,000 tanks and his 8,500-man air force about 535 combat planes.

But analysts said his plans to abolish the regular army, gradually replacing it with a "people's army", were unpopular with army officers reluctant to see their power eroded.

A big explosion at a munitions depot near Benghazi in March 1984 and unconfirmed reports of a mutiny at a nearby barracks prompted speculation that Qadhafi was facing opposition from within the armed forces.

Libyan exiles also reported a failed attempt to assassinate him the same month.

But diplomats in Tripoli said acts of sabotage and arson were isolated expressions of discontent, with no sign of an organised opposition to Qadhafi's rule.

His involvement in neighbouring Chad, where an estimated 6,000 Libyan troops support anti-government rebels, has been a big drain on the economy and army resources, diplomats said.

It also brought friction with France, which sent 3,000 men backed by warplanes to Chad in 1983 to help the government. The two countries signed an agreement to withdraw their forces in 1984, but France repeatedly accused Qadhafi of breaking it by keeping his forces there.

Relations with the United States were bad from the moment Qadhafi took power, and reached crisis point in early 1986 when Washington accused Qadhafi of aiding guerrillas responsible for bloody attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985.

The attacks also strained ties with Italy and Austria, particularly when Libya's national news agency hailed the attacks as "heroic" — a statement hastily retracted by Libya.

The Carter administration pulled U.S. diplomats out of Tripoli in 1980, and relations worsened further after Reagan became president in 1981.

In August 1981, U.S. navy fighters from the aircraft carrier Nimitz shot down two Libyan fighters over the Gulf of Sirte in the Mediterranean.

Reagan in 1982 banned the sale of military items to Libya and barred imports of Libyan oil. He announced new sanctions in January 1986 after the airport attacks, sent warships to North Africa and launched a drive to persuade American allies to join sanctions against Tripoli.

Qadhafi countered by threatening to send suicide squads to carry the fight to the streets of America if he were attacked.

Britain broke off ties with Libya in April 1984 after a policewoman was shot dead during an anti-Qadhafi demonstration outside the Libyan embassy in London.

Britain claimed the shot was fired from inside the mission and laid siege to the building for several days until the expelled diplomats left.

Qadhafi, from the late 1970s, had begun to spread his radical wings abroad and to threaten his foes wherever they were based. Western governments maintain.

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He has spent billions of dollars of oil wealth on improving living standards, making him highly popular with the low-paid. Roads and housing are good and illiteracy has been slashed.

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History could repeat itself

THERE IS definitely something wrong about the U.S. secretary of state's statement yesterday that fighting between the American Sixth Fleet and Libyan forces have resulted from the reassertion of the U.S. navy's right to operate in international waters. It could be that it is only half the truth, or that it is misleading, or it is just an aspect of the make-believe diplomacy in which the Reagan administration is known to have indulged.

Surely, not many of us could believe Mr. Shultz on this one. The background to the past two days' clashes, declared American intentions towards Libya and the way in which the dispute was handled all indicate that the Reagan administration was seeking a fight with Col. Qadhafi until it managed to pick one. The provocation has been evident for sometime, and the Americans seem to have made it a point to take on Libya.

For internal political reasons at least, President Reagan needed the fight with Tripoli. His clash with the U.S. Congress over the question of Nicaragua might well be made more winnable if he took on Qadhafi in this manner. His Right-wing supporters — and detractors — might be appeased, and maybe the image of the U.S. as a helpless giant could also be improved in the eyes of the world. This much can be understood about the U.S. president's motives for practising gumboot diplomacy with the Libyans. What remains difficult to understand though is whether Washington really believes that Col. Qadhafi can be taught a good lesson through this behaviour and whether the situation might not get out of hand and develop into a dangerous confrontation between Libya and the U.S. or even an international one.

It is both possible and plausible that the Reagan administration has ignored or overlooked the fact that picking a fight with Qadhafi at this time might make him more of a hero in his country and the Arab World. And by the same token, it is also possible that the U.S. could harm its own interests in this region and elsewhere by taking hostile military action against an Arab country, regardless of who its ruler is. In any case, the cause of peace can be served by neither applying the law of the jungle to international disputes, nor by a return to the gumboot diplomacy of the past centuries nor by a superpower bullying and provoking a country much smaller than its size.

President Reagan should be told and reminded by his friends, allies and others that he must not repeat episodes of war that could lead to uncontrollable situations and more serious acts of violence throughout the world. It is all too easy for history to repeat itself in instances such as we witness off the coast of Libya today.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The Moroccan leader knows better

IN a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Sayassah, King Hassan of Morocco said that the Arab leaders have not yet had the chance to know the real views of the Israeli leaders and suggested that this is a fault on the part of the Arab Nation. This statement really give rise to questions, and we wonder whether the king had made the remark casually or he meant it as a fact about the Arabs. King Hassan realises like we do that the Arabs are aware of Zionist intentions and are quite familiar with the racist nature of the Israeli enemy and Israel's ambitious designs in the Arab lands. King Hassan knows that the Israelis have a tendency to expand their state at the expense of the Arab lands and are full of hatred towards the Arabs. Yet the king made suggestion to the Kuwaiti newspaper that Arab leaders should hold direct contacts with the Israelis in order to know their views. Everyone realises the intentions of the Israelis through their continued drive to evict Arabs from their homeland and through their constant aggression on Arab countries and their rejection to comply to United Nations resolutions. Everybody realises the nature of this enemy and even the United Nations has considered Israel as a racist movement and a subversive element within the international community. King Hassan suggested that an Arab leader should carry to Peres the Fez Arab resolutions, but these resolutions have been explained to the whole world and have not been able to convince the Israelis to respond to peace. King Hassan's statement appeared to indicate that the Arabs are to blame for the absence of peace while the whole world realises that the case is not so.

Al Dustour: Arab summit urgently needed

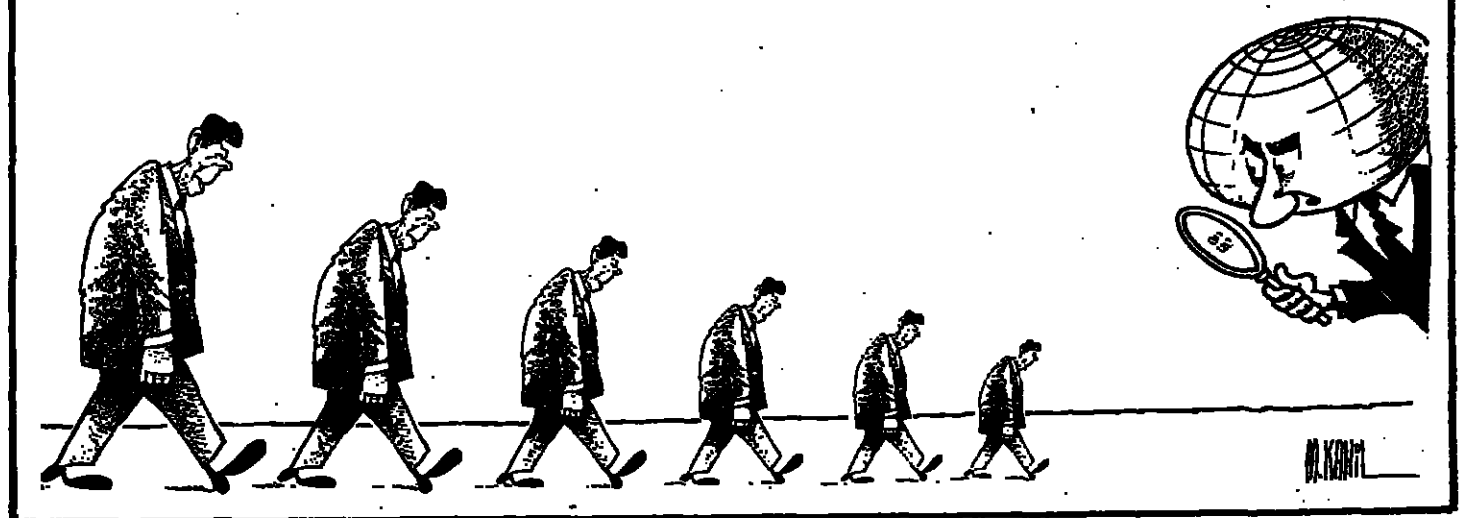
THE Arab League Council opened a meeting in Tunis Monday to discuss issues of concern to the Arab Nation. The meeting comes at a critical time as the Arabs are involved in conflicts and internal troubles and are at the same time confronting an escalation in Israel's aggression on the Arab Nation. For the first time all Arab states are represented at the meeting which is a good sign that they intend to agree on common subjects and should well pave the way for an Arab summit meeting. An Arab summit is required at the moment to find proper solutions for the numerous problems and the conflicts in our region. In their statements, upon arriving in Tunis, many foreign ministers have openly called for the convening of a summit which, they said, is a necessity to handle the Arab problems. The Arab Nation now stands at a crossroads and should choose the right course to follow in the face of continued Zionist threats. What this nation should do is choose the course of joint action and solidarity in the face of the common danger.

Sawt Al Shaab: A universal call for peace

TODAY the whole world will hear calls for peace coming from the 150 delegates gathering in Amman from around the world to discuss the Gulf war. Today the world nations will be urged to help Iraq achieve peace and end the war with Iran, which has lasted nearly six years. The delegates who represent labour unions around the globe should unite in their endeavour to bring an end to the Gulf conflict that has cost the Gulf region huge losses in life and material. An end to the war means an end to the oppression in Iran and a start of a new era of peace with Iran's neighbours. The delegates should be brave and speak out against this continued Iranian aggression on Iraq and Arab land. They should speak out so that they can bring pressure to bear on Iran to force it to respond favourably to the calls of peace. We welcome the delegates in Amman and appeal to them to exert all their efforts to stop the bloodshed and extinguish the conflagration in our region.

U.S. action poses risk for Washington

1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988



By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON — A clash between U.S. and Libyan forces in the Mediterranean poses serious risks for Washington and ultimately may strengthen the hand of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, Middle East analysts say.

Among the dangers they see are escalated fighting, terrorist attacks in the United States, retaliation against Western workers in Libya and in the Arab World and a superpower confrontation.

American navy jets knocked out a Libyan anti-aircraft missile site and damaged two Libyan patrol craft with missiles on Monday in retaliation for Libyan missile attacks against U.S. planes,

Soviets assail U.S. 'aggression'

(Continued from page 1)

iterranean," a government statement said.

France expressed grave concern over the military clash between Libya and the U.S. and called for respect of internationally recognised territorial limits.

The Americans contend they were in an international waters and over international air space when at least six Libyan surface-to-air missiles were fired at American jet fighters on Monday, Washington said it retaliated by sinking one Libyan missile-launching boat, damaging another and taking out part of a radar ground installation.

A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry told reporters at a briefing: "France is following with great preoccupation the developments in the Gulf of Sirte. It hopes that the international principles — in particular those touching on free circulation in international air space — be respected and guaranteed in peaceful ways."

The West German foreign ministry said the government hopes the U.S.-Libyan hostilities do not escalate.

The short statement was the first Bonn government reaction to the hostilities.

Bonn officials reacted cautiously to the U.S.-Libyan situation, adding that they had waited several hours to collect all available information.

In sharp contrast to the government statement, the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) criticised the United States for "returning to the gunboat diplomacy of the 19th century" in order to display its might "Rambo-style."

"The test of strength off the Libyan coast was clearly intentional. Apparently the hawks in the present U.S. administration have a constant need to demonstrate their military might in Rambo-style," an SPD statement said.

Rambo refers to the gun-toting hero of a Hollywood war film popular with President Reagan about a lone American whose life's mission is to kill communists in Southeast Asia.

Greece said it was worried by events in Libya and "provocations and clashes" could endanger peace in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Libya moved quickly to mobilise support from other Muslim nations in its confrontation with the United States.

Tripoli also protested to the United Nations against the "serious violation" by Washington and exhorted the Arab World to "destroy America."

Iran and Syria, Libya's main Middle East allies, were the first to express full support for Tripoli.

In Tehran, Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Iran fully supported Libya, adding that the U.S. action was "a flagrant violation against the territorial integrity of an Islamic country."

Syria's Vice-President, Abdul Halim Khaddam to Tripoli, and Libya's news agency JANA said leader Muammar Qadhafi briefed him on the "U.S. aggression against the Libyan people."

Syria has pledged to help Tripoli confront any external attack.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Col. Qadhafi spoke twice on the telephone in the past 24 hours, the Syrian official news agency (SANA) reported.

The Libyan news agency said the chief-of-staff of Sudan's armed forces, General Mohamed Tawfiq Khalil, had arrived in Tripoli with a delegation in an expression of support.

In Lebanon, newspapers expressed alarm and outrage over the clashes.

"The United States has committed its insolent aggression against (Libya) after paying the way since 1981 with a series of provocations," the daily Al Nida said.

In the United Arab Emirates, the semi-official daily Al Itihad said: "America will be surprised at the total Arab rallying behind Libya, whether from those it expects or from those it does not expect."

"Aggression against any Arab country is aggression against all countries," it added.

Col. Qadhafi has sent Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Al Mansour to Morocco where he handed a message to King Hassan who signed a state union treaty with Col. Qadhafi in August 1984 under which he agreed to coordinate policies with Libya.

In Rabat, the Moroccan nationalist daily l'Opinion said the United States was trying to push Libya to the limit in a war of nerves and military confrontation.

"There is no doubt that with their manoeuvres the USA want to test Qadhafi's intentions and see just how far the Soviet Union will go in supporting the Libyan head of state," the paper said in a front-page commentary.

"But by so doing Washington also intends to push Tripoli to the limit and make it take the risk of a confrontation."

The opposition daily Al Bayaneh published by the Moroccan Party of Progress and Socialism said all

indications were that Washington "has decided to finish off the Libyan regime."

The Pentagon has chosen the tactic of progressive provocation, in order to push Tripoli to the last resort and so that the Libyan leaders lose their cool," the paper said in an editorial.

The paper warned that "Libya will not be alone in the face of an aggression" and concluded by saying "America must be careful, Libya is not the little island of Grenada."

Algeria condemns the demonstration of force by the United States against Libya to regulate what it said was a legal difference about navigation in the Gulf of Sirte, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said.

Without naming the United States, the ministry statement said the use of force was "even more unacceptable when it is an act of a permanent member of the (U.N.) Security Council."

In the Botswana capital, Gaborone, delegates from 20 African countries attending an Islamic meeting condemned the "U.S. aggression."

In Warsaw, the Polish government condemned the U.S. air strikes against Libyan targets as a threat to world peace and accused the United States of undermining the results of the Geneva summit.

In Damascus, the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), an alliance of six Palestinian factions, vowed to make the United States "pay heavily for this aggression."

"All the PNSF factions and Arab national liberation forces will take necessary measures to deter the United States through attacking every single American target or interest in the Middle East, on the basis that the United States is the number one enemy of the Arab Nation," it said.

Cuba accused the United States of provoking the clashes and endangering peace in the Mediterranean region.

"It is obvious that this is a dangerous provocation against Libya, endorsed by President Reagan himself," the Cuban Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher backed the "right" of the United States to exercise in the Gulf of Sirte and to "respond in self-defence" to Libyan attacks on its aircraft there.

"The United States ships and aircraft were operating in international waters and airspace and they have every right to do so," she told parliament.

"It is important that international waters and airspace be kept open and we support the right to do so," she said in reply to questions from opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

Mr. Kinnock said the U.S. right to operate in the Gulf of Sirte was not at issue but he described U.S. attacks on Libyan targets as destabilising.

In Washington, congressional leaders of both major U.S. political parties rallied around the administration.

However, some lawmakers worried about the effects on United States foreign policy and wondered what Col. Qadhafi might do next.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., a Democrat, said after a White House briefing: "The administration's handling of this matter is on the right course. Its actions in protecting America's armed forces in international waters are justified."

Not everyone in Congress agreed, however. "I don't understand what we're trying to prove by risking the lives of American servicemen," said Republican Senator Mark Hatfield. "Countless unmet challenges face the United States today: cancer, hunger and threat of nuclear war. Instead of confronting those challenges, we are engaging in child-like games."

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said he supported the action, calling it "appropriate," and Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said, "It's important to show Qadhafi that these are international waters."

Democratic Representative Dante Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed concern that a military confrontation could lead to a "significant conflict resulting in the loss of American lives."

Democratic Representative John Conyers warned that the action could alienate the Arab World against the United States and unify it in favour of Col. Qadhafi.

The Egyptian government issued no immediate statement over the U.S.-Libyan clash. State-owned newspapers reported the clash without editorial comment.

In a statement released Tuesday, however, the leader of an Egyptian party with close links to Libya condemned the U.S. action and called on Arab countries to "declare their solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people."



India: After two years of drought, even deep wells in Rajasthan state are drying up. (Photo by Sanjay Acharya — Earthscan)

Drought and desperation in Rajasthan

By Sami Krishna

Rajasthan, normally one of the driest states in India, is in the midst of a severe drought. Small farmers are abandoning their land, rendered infertile not only by the lack of rain, but by years of overcultivation.

UDAIPUR, India — The interstate highway running through south Rajasthan's drought-stricken landscape has become "one of the biggest broths in the country." Each day more young tribal women are reduced to selling themselves — for money or food — to truck drivers on the way to the city of Ahmedabad.

With 70 per cent of crops dependent on seasonal rains, the failure of two successive monsoons has created unparalleled hardship even in this normally arid state.

The only stretches of green are a few irrigated crops or those planted in former lake beds. Deep wells have dried up, and in places the water table has sunk by 30 metres. The strange sight of an emaciated camel vainly gnawing a piece of bone is evidence of the growing desperation of both people and beasts.

In every village in southern Rajasthan an estimated one in four families has done the unthinkable and abandoned its land. Many are believed to be working

on road construction in the Kathiawar peninsula of Gujarat state.

The departing families have left their cattle behind. Neighbouring states like Madhya Pradesh, themselves parched and short of fodder, have forbidden entry to the thirsty herds of Rajasthan.

The state government's famine relief programme has not stemmed the tide of out-migration which, though exacerbated by the drought, is of long duration. Much of Rajasthan consists of drylands which have been overcultivated to the point of exhaustion.

Many experts now agree that marginal lands should not be used for agriculture, but should be forested and carefully used for fuel-

wood and fodder. Prime Minister Gandhi has set a national afforestation target of five million hectares per year.

In a few villages in Ajmer district, school children, inspired by their teachers, are taking the lead. One 10-year-old girl planted 100 saplings, only to find that they had been eaten by livestock overnight. Undaunted, she planted 100 more the next day.

Kanku Bai, a village woman who has taken on the unusual occupation of maintaining a village tree nursery, says she could distribute 100,000 saplings in one season if she had enough seed. Rajasthan needs many more like her if it is to hold on to its soil — and its people — Earthscan.

pregnancy is determined by checking the level of the hormone chorionic gonadotropin, which is secreted in large quantity into the woman's urine in the early phase of pregnancy. But scientists say there are cases of extrauterine conception in which accuracy is limited because hormonal density is low.

The spokesman said the firm would not sell the new reagent over-the-counter in Japan "for the time being" in light of possible objections from the Japan Medical Association for Protection of Maternal Health and other groups. Instead, the company will sell it to Western countries where demand for the product is already high.

But association officials say they are highly impressed by the performance of Mochida's reagent, which is 20 times as effective as conventional reagents. "There would no longer be any grounds for our objections to sales to ordinary citizens," one official said.

The association and other medical institutions have been opposed to the over-the-counter sales of reagents for the diagnosis of pregnancy. Although they are not harmful to humans, the possibility of an erroneous diagnosis is high when used by laymen.

Wars between white settlers and Xhosa tribesmen, remains British under international law because it is a naval vessel.

Britain also regards the wreck off Danger Point, 100 km southeast of Cape Town, as a war grave.

After the ship hit a rock in the dead of night, soldiers stood stolidly in ranks on the deck while the ship was being evacuated, with 20 women and children rescued first.

As they waited their turns, the ship tilted and the men were flung into the sea, where many drowned exhausted or trapped in froths of thick seaweed near the shore.

There were 193 survivors, but 445 men died.

"It's full of dead soldiers down there and we don't want them moved," a British Foreign Office official said recently.

But salvage teams believe the ship was carrying 240,000 gold coins to fund the war when it went down.

This year local divers, given a permit by the government to search for riches, recovered the first 24 coins, some of them prized by collectors.

South Africa claims the wreck because it lies inside its territorial waters, although at the time of the disaster the Cape was a British colony.

Chris Loedloff, director of the state-run South African National Monuments Council, says he fails to see how the British, who have tried three times in the past to salvage the gold, can still lay claim to the treasure.

"The divers will be entitled to 50 per cent of the whatever they salvage from the wreck and the South African government will get the other 50 per cent," he told reporters recently.

Loedloff said the government's share would be donated to South African museums, although applications from British museums would also be considered.

The rock on which the ship foundered is now known as Birkenhead rock. A memorial to the dead can be seen at Danger Point.

Libya vows to defend itself

(Continued from page 1)

our land produces giant fighters who will transform the waters of the Mediterranean into a sea of blood," a Libyan commentator, said over Tripoli Radio, in a reference to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

In another dispatch, Libya said that U.S. Sixth Fleet aircraft were pursuing civilian planes flying from Europe to Africa in attempts to approach Libyan airspace, the JANA news agency reported.

Tripoli radio quoted the demonstrators as saying they would turn the Mediterranean "into a sea of blood" and its skies into "nets of fire that will burn that terrorist (Mr. Reagan)."

"Let everyone be aware, particularly the old, mad, coward and bad actor, that this good earth is a huge rock on which all terrorist challenges, whatever their source, will founder," one unidentified speaker said.

In Damascus, Syria pledged all-out support for Libya in its confrontation with the United States and warned Washington its policy endangered world peace and security.

An official government statement strongly condemned what it considered "direct aggression against itself and the Arab Nation and a threat to all peace-loving peoples."

"Syria reiterates its full solidarity and firm stand with Libya's people and government and warns the United States of the consequences of its arrogant policies which expose world peace and security to most grave dangers," the statement said.

It said this week's incidents followed many previous provocations and were "a link in a chain of practices exercised by American imperialism with the aim of striking at Arab steadfastness."

King Hassan of Morocco assured Col. Qadhafi of his total support and promised to do everything in his power to have Libya's territorial integrity respected.

In a message to Col. Qadhafi, King Hassan also said he deplored "the deaths of Libyan patriots whose sacrifice we are sure will not have been in vain."

"In expressing our total solidarity... we want to affirm that we shall deploy every effort and conduct all action needed notably so that Libya's territorial integrity is respected," the King said.

Libya has "complained to the U.N. secretary-general that the U.S. manoeuvres... threaten peace in the region and the whole world."

In a note sent to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar before the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf, Kamel Hassan Al Makhour, secretary of the Libyan U.N. mission called the U.S. manoeuvres "a dangerous provocation."

The note did not ask for a meeting of the Security Council where, Mr. Makhour said, a U.S. veto blocks any effective action throwing Libya back on its own defences.

He said that Libya would exercise its right to self defence under article 51 of the U.N. Charter, which grants such a right "until the Security Council has taken acts to protect international peace and security."

The note was delivered late Monday and was prepared before the hostilities, a U.N. spokesman, Francois Giuliani, said.

U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters told reporters he had notified the secretary-general by telephone that the United States had exercised its own right to self defence against Libya under article 51.

Ambassador Ole Biering of Denmark, Security Council president for March, said he had not received any Libyan request for a council meeting on Monday's confrontation with the U.S. naval force.

The U.S. also officially protested to the Security Council against what it called "unjustified attacks against American naval units" by Libya.

"United States forces exercised great restraint," Mr. Walters said in a letter sent later to President Biering.

Mr. Walters, who did not request a meeting of the council, said: "It was only after several missiles had been launched by Libya that the United States reacted. In the ensuing action, two Libyan naval vessels were disabled in an area where the United States fleet was operating. Key components of the missile complex at Sirte from which SA-5 missiles had been fired were also damaged."

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, as he flew to Greece from Turkey amid tight security, said the United States had been prepared for Libyan attacks on the U.S. warships conducting exercises in the Gulf of Sirte.

Turkish and Greek warplanes escorted Mr. Shultz as he flew from Ankara to Athens and U.S. planes were on station further out into the Mediterranean.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters travelling with Mr. Shultz that the escorts were precautionary steps against any attempts to take action against Mr. Shultz.

Mr. Shultz said the firing of surface to air missiles against U.S. warplanes by Libya had not come as a surprise.

"Obviously we were prepared for it and we knew what we were going to do about it."

"We discussed it thoroughly and we decided we should go ahead, or the president did, with the normal rules of engagement and continue to assert our right and everybody else's right to freedom of passage in international waters," Mr. Shultz said.

Earlier, Mr. Shultz said the U.S. feared and was on alert for possible Libyan attacks on Americans in retaliation for the U.S. actions.

He repeated allegations from senior officials in Washington that Libya fired first.

"Libya was the aggressor," he said. He added that congressional leaders had been briefed before U.S. planes responded and continued to be updated.

South Africa and Britain wrangle over war grave treasure

By Victor Mallet

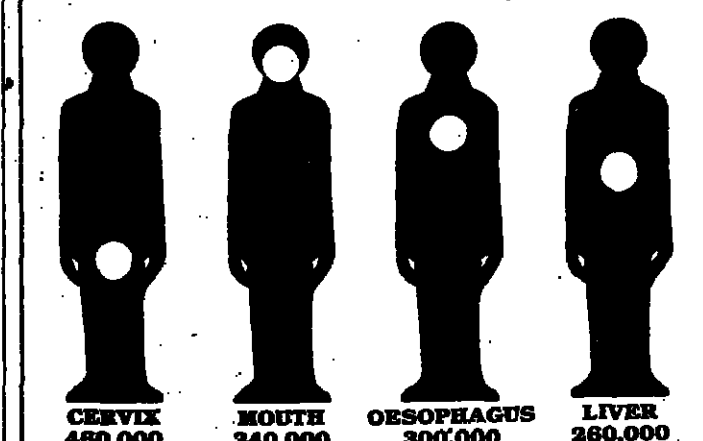
CAFE TOWN — When the iron-clad troopship HMS Birkenhead was wrecked off South Africa in 1852, Britain mourned hundreds of heroes who died epitomising the self-sacrificing code of

"women and children first." Treasure-hunting divers have now begun recovering gold coins from the wreck, rekindling a dispute between South Africa and Britain.

Britain maintains that the Birkenhead, which was carrying troops to fight in the Eastern Cape

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France unveils proposal for billion dollar 1992 Olympics

PARIS (AP) — France wants to stage a billion-dollar birthday party for the Olympics.

Organisers of the proposal to bring the 1992 Summer Games to Paris formally unveiled their plan Monday, saying it was a one-shot bid based on culture and the wish to pay homage to one of their own.

"We are not here to persuade," said Alain Danet, vice-president of the Committee organising Paris' bid for the '92 Games. "But of course, Paris is the best."

Paris is one of six cities bidding for the Summer Games of '92. The others are Amsterdam; Brisbane, Australia; Birmingham, England; Sofia, Bulgaria; and Barcelona.

The hosts for both the Summer and Winter Games in 1992 will be announced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in October.

Much of the bid by Paris is based around a century-old occurrence.

In 1892, Baron de Coubertin

To do this, organisers are proposing an Olympics that would make use of existing facilities — but still cost an estimated \$1 billion.

Danet said 40 per cent of the money would go for construction, 40 per cent for organisation and the remaining 20 per cent for as-yet undetermined purposes.

All of the money would come from government — 50 per cent from the national government and 25 per cent each from city and regional coffers.

Sponsorships, which are increasingly being negotiated by the IOC, are not included. Danet said such money might make its way into the Paris budget, but at present "we do not want to take risks."

Paris gained a high-ranking ally in its bid last week when Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac was named French prime minister.

"Mr. Chirac has told me to report that there is no divergence between the prime minister and the mayor of Paris" in support of the Olympic bid, Danet said.

Mr. Chirac's appointment was accompanied by a terrorist bombing in Paris. Danet said such incidents are much on the minds of the Olympic organisers.

"Terrorism is a tough nut to crack," he said. "It is the No. 1 problem for everyone. No one is safe from terrorism."

To combat terrorism, Danet said, France would use existing police and army forces plus "imagination."

Connors to consult lawyer over \$20,000 fine suspension

NEW YORK (R) — Jimmy Connors, suspended for 10 weeks and fined \$20,000 for walking off the court during a match, said he would consult his attorney before deciding what action to take.

Connors, who has 30 days to appeal the suspension by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC), said Monday he "will review the decision with my attorneys during the next few weeks."

"At this point I can only concentrate on my tennis," Connors was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the Office of Prospects, his agent.

Connors, irate over a fine call against him, walked off the court during the fifth set of the final of a tournament in Boca Raton, Florida last month against Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

Annacone ends Chesnokov's 1st venture in American tennis

CHICAGO (AP) — Fifth-seed Paul Annacone, using a booming service and neatly placed drop shots, ended Andrei Chesnokov's first venture in an American tennis event, the \$315,000 Volvo Chicago Tournament on Monday night.

The 23-year-old Annacone of the United States, ranked No. 12 in the world, beat the Russian, 6-3, 6-7(7-2), 6-1 in first-round action.

For the 20-year-old Soviet, an unfamiliar court surface and an all-out effort at winning the second-set tie breaker led to his downfall.

Sixth-seeded Kevin Curren of the United States, relying on his big serve, ousted fellow countryman Eliot Teltscher, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

Curren had raced to a quick 5-2 advantage in the tiebreaker, then the margin was cut by Teltscher to 6-5 before Curren captured the match.

In their opening set, Annacone broke Chesnokov's service in the fourth game to take a 3-1 lead, and with his ability to score repeatedly with effective drop shots, coasted to a 6-3 verdict.

The second set was more contested as Chesnokov was able to hold serve, but unable to cope

with Annacone's first serves. After going up 40-love in the 10th game, Chesnokov wilted and Annacone won the game.

But Annacone forced a seven-point tie breaker after capturing the 12th game. Chesnokov proved too much for Annacone, racing to a 6-1 lead and eventually winning, 7-2 as Annacone hit a ball out of bounds.

In the third and final set, Annacone raced to a 3-0 lead, breaking Chesnokov's service in the second game before losing the fourth game. Again, Annacone's overpowering passing shots proved troublesome and Chesnokov lost his service in the sixth game.

Annacone closed out the hour and 50 minute match, winning all four points.

In other matches, seventh-seed Johan Kriek of the United States defeated compatriot Tim Gullickson, 7-5, 6-3, Larry Stefanki of the United States, eliminated fellow countryman Marty Davis, 6-1, 6-4, and Robert Seguso of the United States stunned compatriot David Pate, 6-3, 7-5.

Canadian Glenn Michibata and Robert Seguso of the United States staged upset wins, and Mexico's Leonardo Lavalle wore down Sweden's Mikael Pernfors.

English soccer format threatened by change

LONDON (R) — English Soccer was Tuesday threatened by "a big bang" which would radically reshape the game at the highest level.

At a secret meeting Monday night, the entire First Division of 22 clubs resolved to split from the long-established English Football League and form a breakaway super league.

They said they would go their own way unless their 10-point plan for reform, which would give them greater power and resources, was accepted at a meeting of the league on April 21.

Manchester United Chairman Martin Edwards underlined the top clubs' determination. "We are not joking and it is no idle threat. If the resolutions agreed are voted out on April 21 very serious considerations will be given to all the First Division clubs going their own way."

Edwards admitted that time, legal and administrative factors might make it difficult to form a super league by next season.

But he warned: "We have already looked into the matter at great depth, and you never know what can happen or be achieved when people sit down and put their minds to it."

"We have an obligation to ourselves. There is no doubt the big bang in football will happen unless the rest of the league gives us their backing."

Everton's Philip Carter, spokesman for the First Division chairman, said: "We are not happy with the way football is going at the moment and the 10-point plan must not be rejected."

"Make no mistake, April 21 is going to be D-Day for the future of football in this country."

"We have said all along that we want these changes made within the present structure of the league. But unless we receive the 75 per cent support we need, which is 39 of the 53 votes available, we reserve the right to take whatever action we deem necessary."

The First-Division clubs' main request under the 10-point plan is for a greater share of both television revenue and sponsorship money. They are also insisting that the league president is chosen from their ranks rather than from any one of the 92 clubs who make up the four divisions.

France gives youth its fling against Argentina

PARIS (R) — France, deprived of their most experienced task force with the absence of Michel Platini and Alain Giresse, meet Argentina Wednesday in what many see as a possible rehearsal for the World Cup final itself on June 29.

With Platini and Giresse sidelined through injury — the first time France will line up without both men in two years — coach Henry Michel has decided to bring in two players with little international experience.

He has called up Jean-Marc Ferreri, 23, of Auxerre and Philippe Vercyusse, 24, from Lens to link up with Luis Fernandez and Jean Tigana in midfield.

"Of course I regret the absence of Platini and Giresse for a big match like this, but it will be a good opportunity for the younger ones," said Michel.

Vercyusse has been capped once before — four minutes as substitute against Belgium in May 1983. Ferreri, 16 caps, is often billed as Platini's successor, but he last played a full match during the European Championship two years ago.

Argentina coach Carlos Bilardo

has no injury worries and hopes to field his best line-up including Napoli's Diego Maradona, Jorge Valdano of Real Madrid and Jorge Burruchaga of French club Nantes.

Bilardo said he would decide at the last minute whom to link up with Oscar Ruggeri in central defence. He has a choice between Jose Luis Brown and Pedro Pasculli, who plays for Lecce in Italy.

The Argentine coach however had to do without powerful central defender Daniel Passarella, at odds with his Italian club Fiorentina and said to be on his way to Internazionale Milan next season.

Bilardo dismissed reports he was on bad terms with Passarella and would not pick him up for Mexico. "We've had a frank talk and everything has been cleared. He will be one of the team's pillars in Mexico."

It is interesting to note that the joint absence of Platini and Giresse against West Germany in April 1984 did not stop France winning 1-0.

Teams: France — Joel Bats; William Ayache, Patrick Battiston, Max Bossis, Manuel Amoroso.



Luis Fernandez

Luis Fernandez, Jean Tigana, Philippe Vercyusse, Jean-Marc Ferreri, Daniel Xuereb, Bruno Bellone.

Argentina: Nery Pumpido; Nestor Clausen, Pedro Pasculli (or Jose Luis Brown), Oscar Ruggeri, Oscar Garre; Ricardo Giusti, Sergio Batista, Jorge Burruchaga, Diego Maradona; Claudio Borghi, Jorge Valdano.

Italy needs World Cup boost against Austria

UDINE, Italy (R) — World Cup holders Italy will be seeking to rediscover the winning habit when they tackle Austria Wednesday in their second last international before setting off for Mexico.

Defeats against Norway, Poland and West Germany in their last three appearances have done little for the squad's morale, although Italy seldom find much motivation in such warm-ups.

But Manager Enzo Bearzot will want to use this game against an inexperienced Austrian line-up as the perfect opportunity to get back on the victory trail.

Bearzot seems certain to make at least three changes to his recognised first choice team because of injuries.

Roma left-back Sebastiano

Nela will probably switch flanks to replace Internazionale Milan right-back Giuseppe Bergomi, while 21-year-old Sampdoria winger Gianluca Vialli looks set to fill in for Roma's Bruno Conti, who is also sidelined.

Bearzot's third and most intriguing change concerns the midfielders, Carlo Ancelotti of Roma and Antonio Di Gennaro of Verona.

Di Gennaro is the regular playmaker but he missed the 2-1 defeat against West Germany last month when Ancelotti made the most of his chance with a solid display.

Ancelotti, a major inspiration in Roma's excellent season, probably did enough against the West Germans to retain his place since

Internazionale midfielder Giuseppe Baresi is also injured.

Austria, who did not qualify for Mexico, will be led by 31-year-old sweeper Bruno Pezzey, one of the few survivors from the side which qualified for both the 1978 and 1982 finals.

Austrian coach Bruno Blesner said he is planning for the 1990 World Cup and wants only players who will be available and at their best in four years' time.

Probable teams: Italy — Tancredi (or Galli), Scirea, Nela, Vierchowod, Cabrini, Bagni, Di Gennaro, Ancelotti, Rossi, Alibonelli, Vialli.

Austria — Lindenberger, Pezzey, Lainer, Kienast, Degeorgi, Termer, Brauneeder, Linzmaier, Drabits, Polster, Willfurth.

England, Soviet Union seek winning answers

TBILISI, Soviet Union (R) — The Soviet Union and England, two of the European teams favoured to make an impact at the World Cup Soccer Finals in Mexico, will be seeking encouraging answers to their most pressing problems in a warm-up match here Wednesday.

For the Soviet Union, whose domestic league season started a month ago, the problems are basic following successive defeats in Spain and Mexico and the loss of star striker Oleg Protasov, who has badly torn ligaments.

But for England, unbeaten in seven matches since losing by the only goal in Mexico last June, they are more a matter of fine tuning to an efficient machine.

Manager Bobby Robson said he felt the match offered him a final chance of looking for a replacement for injured Captain Bryan Robson, extra pace in central defence and confirmation that a winger should be part of his tactical planning.

"I want to find out if the system which I have tried for some time

can work at the highest level," said Robson. "If we can solve these problems, we have a chance anywhere."

Robson added that he had a vivid memory of the Soviet Union's victory over England in London in 1984. "They were fitter, stronger, quicker and brighter than us," he said, adding that he felt England had "come a long way since then."

The England manager said he did not expect to find another Bryan Robson, who is currently missing after dislocating a shoulder. "He is unique. Even Platini doesn't go around winning the ball," he said. "But with Wilkins and Hoddle as suppliers, we need someone there to nick the odd goal for us."

He is likely to give Aston Villa's Steve Hodge his first cap in Robson's roving midfield role, recall Mark Wright in place of Alvin Martin in defence and carefully examine winger Chris Waddle's contribution to England's performance.

The Soviet Union, who are staying at the same hotel as England — it is often surrounded by young Georgian soccer fans — have spent most of the winter together in training and have developed a settled look.

But coach Eduard Malofeev needs to turn that advantage into victory Wednesday to satisfy expectations and he may call up Sergei Dobrovolsky, 18, to make his debut in place of Protasov.

Teams (probable): Soviet Union — Rinat Dasyev, Gennady Morozov, Alexander Bubnov, Anatoly Denysenko, Alexander Chivadze, Sergei Aleinikov, Sergei Gotsmanov, Fyodor Cherenkov, Sergei Rodionov, Sergei Dobrovolsky, Georgy Kondratyev.

England — Peter Shilton, Viv Anderson, Mark Wright, Terry Butcher, Kenny Sansom, Glenn Hoddle, Ray Wilkins, Steve Hodge, Gary Lineker, Mark Hateley, Chris Waddle.

The fall came in the second quarter and, according to Dr. Thomas Silva, the Celtics' team physician, resulted in a definite loss of the right neurological process in his right leg.

Sampson had no feeling and no movement in his right leg before being carried off the court, according to Silva's report. But the report said that after being taken to Boston's locker room, Sampson had sensation and movement of his right leg.

Sampson hospitalised after fall during Boston game

BOSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets all-star centre Ralph Sampson was hospitalised but improving Monday night after he fell during a National Basketball Association game with Boston, Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss said.

"The X-rays of the neck and head were negative," Twiss said after Sampson was carried from the court on a stretcher and taken to Massachusetts General Hospital. "There is no word yet on the X-rays of the mid-back."

Twiss said the feeling and motion in Sampson's right leg had

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AQABA BACK-ROAD PROJECT

It is expected that the Jordanian government will receive loans from the Saudi Fund for Development and Kuwaiti Fund to finance partially the above-mentioned project, and the Ministry of Public Works is hereby inviting for prequalification local, Arab and foreign companies and joint ventures according to the following:

(1) Project Description:

The Project consists of two sections:

Section (A): Which includes a separate grade interchange and 15 km. Main road connecting Wadi Yutum to the Spur Intersection, and 6 km. Spur to the coastal highway. It also includes (6) bridges. Approximate quantities: (4) mill.cu.m. earthwork and (20,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete.

Section (B): Which includes 11 km. of main road ending at the coastal highway near Wadi 2, and the flood protection channel of Wadi 2, and an interchange. Approximate quantities: (3) mill.cu.m. earthwork, (5,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete and (130,000) cu.m. gabions.

(2) PREQUALIFICATION:

(a) Companies and joint ventures will be prequalified according to their technical and financial ability, experience in highway and bridge construction, their work load and performance.

(b) Priority will be given to joint ventures and associations which comprise a local qualified road contractor classified in either (General of First Grade).

(3) The cost of each copy of prequalification form will be a non-refundable sum of JD 100.

(4) The deadline for obtaining the prequalification forms from the Ministry of Public Works is April 6, 1986.

(5) Prequalification forms with relevant documentation shall be submitted not later than 12.00 hrs. noon, of Sunday 27th of April, 1986.

Director of Govt.
Tenders Directorate
Eng. Daud Khalaf

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مركز الأمل

1 Aquino abolishes assembly, declares interim constitution

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino Tuesday abolished the National Assembly and declared an interim constitution which would remain in force until a national plebiscite ratified a new one within a year.

In a statement on the nature of her four-week-old government, she avoided describing it as either "revolutionary" or "transitional," which many had expected.

In effect she tore up the 1973 constitution imposed by ousted President Ferdinand Marcos and gave herself sweeping powers to rule by decree.

She also imposed a time limit by stating that a special commission would be named within 60 days to draft a new constitution.

"It is my hope that they will complete their work within 90 days and that our people will have a new permanent constitution, and a duly elected parliament, within one year from this proclamation," she said in a televised appearance at the presidential palace.

"Now today, I am announcing an interim constitution under which our battered nation can shelter after years of dictatorship to

heal its wounds, restore its strength and enjoy the first fruits of its new-found freedom," Mrs. Aquino declared.

She said the interim constitution would remain in effect until the new draft is approved "in a genuine and honest plebiscite."

"In the meantime, our new-won rights and liberties will be protected by this temporary freedom constitution. It draws on the existing body of human rights law to which the previous government paid hollow respect, and gives the full judicial protection that those rights were denied."

"No right provided under the unratified 1973 constitution is absent from the freedom constitution," Mrs. Aquino said.

Mrs. Aquino, 53, wearing her familiar yellow dress, was flanked by most members of her government as she spoke to reporters at the presidential palace.

Among them were Defence

Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos, whose military rebellion led to the fall of the 20-year-old Marcos regime.

Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales read the proclamation of the interim constitution which included provisions to abolish the National Assembly, dominated by the pro-Marcos New Society Movement (KBL), and for Mrs. Aquino effectively to rule by decree until the new charter is approved.

It also contained a firm commitment to guarantee civil, political, social, economic and other freedoms.

Mrs. Aquino said the commission would have 30 to 50 members — "men and women of probity and patriotism" — and would hold public hearings "so that the people will have not only the voice in its approval but also a hand in determining its configuration."

Although she said she hoped it would finish its work within 90 days, the proclamation itself set no time limit. It also added an additional two months for a presidential review of the final draft.

The proclamation said new national elections would be held under the terms of the new constitution and local elections would also not be held before it had been ratified.

Provincial and local government elections had been scheduled for next May although there seemed scant chance of them going ahead.

Mrs. Aquino was sharply critical of the KBL, declaring "if political power is to be returned to its proper limits and our society cleansed of the crimes and repression of recent years, we must cut out the cancer in our political system."

Marcos moves into Honolulu home

HONOLULU (R) — Deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda moved into a \$1.5 million Honolulu beach home after spending a month at the heavily-guarded Hickam Air Base, officials said.

The move came amid inquiries in the Philippines and the United States into the alleged misuse of millions of dollars by Marcos during his 20-year rule.



Deng Xiaoping

Deng considering retirement

PEKING (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping appeared in public in Peking Tuesday for the first time in three months and said he was in good health but considering retirement.

Mr. Deng, 81, looked fit and lively as he met Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter in the Great Hall of the People, chain-smoking his favourite Panda brand cigarettes.

He said he was becoming less involved in day-to-day affairs of state to let others handle more of the work and show that current policies did not hinge on him alone.

"Now I am considering when to retire. My retirement will assure our foreign friends that things in China will not change after I am not here," he said.

Mr. Deng was last seen in public in Peking in mid-December although he was shown on state television attending a Chinese new year gathering in his home province of Sichuan last month.

There have been persistent rumours of his poor health, including unsubstantiated reports of kidney problems. The Foreign Ministry dismissed all the reports as groundless.

Mr. Deng's son, Deng Pufang, told a news conference last month that his father was in excellent health, adding: "This winter, virtually everyone in our family seems to have had a cold except him. It's the same every year."

Deng Xiaoping said that because he had not made public appearances the Hong Kong Stock Market had fallen on speculation he was ill. "This speculation was groundless," he said.

He said he was not solely responsible for current policies which were supported by the vast majority of China's people.

U.S. lists improvement in Soviet armed forces

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has made major improvements in its Strategic Missile Forces and across a broad range of conventional military weapons during the past year, the United States said Tuesday.

The conventional improvements include operational status of the SU-27 weather fighter jet equipped with a radar system stolen from the United States, the Defence Department said in its 1986 version of "Soviet military power."

The slick, 156-page paperback book is the sixth in a series of annual reports on Soviet strength which the Pentagon began issuing in 1981.

"I am amazed at almost the sense of urgency with which the Soviet Union is modernising conventional forces," said a Pentagon official, briefing reporters on the basis that he would not be identified.

"They are making significant improvements across the spectrum of conventional warfare."

The official said the SU-27 "Flanker," with its new operational capability, could operate at 2,000 kilometres an hour and use look-down radar stolen from the U.S. Navy F-18 fighter.

The report said Moscow had in the past year:

— Deployed new SS-25 mobile intercontinental nuclear missile

and was testing the bigger, mobile SSX-24 missile which could become operational before the end of 1986.

— Launched a fourth giant "Typhoon" submarine and a third "Delta-4" boat in two classes and ballistic missile submarines.

— Built and flight-tested several more "Blackjack" supersonic bombers and added some 50 more operational "Bear-H" strategic bombers capable of carrying 3,000-kilometre range AS-15 cruise missiles.

— Launched a new 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier capable of carrying conventional jet fighters in the late 1980s and began work on a second such carrier.

Current smaller Soviet carriers can carry only vertical-takeoff and landing attack jets, but the new carrier is an example of the trends that Moscow is making into the traditional lead in conventional weaponry, the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon official told reporters that in some areas such as attack helicopters, troop carriers, heavy mortars and multiple-launch rocket systems, the Soviets Union now has a qualitative as well as a quantitative edge.

"In many theatre systems they have the qualitative edge, especially in some components of ground warfare," he said.

Soviets accept on-site nuclear test verification

WELLINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union is ready to accept on-site verification at its nuclear test sites in any comprehensive test ban treaty, Ambassador to New Zealand Vladimir Bykov said Tuesday.

Bykov said Moscow was ready to "go as far as possible" to secure a treaty.

"We are ready for any kind of verification... national, international, on-site, inter-laboratory, inter-enterprises, anywhere," he told reporters summoned to the embassy for an unprecedented news conference. U.S. diplomats here told Reuters that the Soviet Union had so far not responded to a series of proposals dating back to 1983 aimed at mutual verification of nuclear tests, including their yield.

"They said the most recent proposal, on March 15 this year, included invitations for Soviet scientists to attend a test at the Nevada testing site where the 'Glenoe' nuclear device was detonated at the weekend. Bykov, ambassador to Wellington and Washington.

lington since June 1984, served as deputy ambassador in London for six years previously and senior diplomatic analysts said he was well-connected in Moscow.

Senior third country diplomats told Reuters that scientists could not yet distinguish between low yield underground nuclear blasts and natural earthquakes, adding this meant certain types of test could be undetectable.

The envoy made the comment in a preliminary statement to reporters, but in response to a direct question later added: "The Soviet Union is ready to accept on-site inspections where the nuclear tests are taking place."

New Zealand has maintained a strong anti-nuclear stance since the election of Labour Prime Minister David Lange in July 1984.

"His ban on nuclear-armed or powered warships has ruptured long-standing defence ties with the United States."

Mr. Bykov refused to comment Tuesday on the row between Wellington and Washington.



Man robbed of his kidney

CAIRO (Agencies) — A 25-year-old Egyptian from the city of Qana in southern Egypt has complained that one of his kidneys was stolen from him while undergoing an operation for the removal of stones from the ureter nearly 10 days ago. A report in the Cairo newspaper Al-Jumhuriya said that the man Mahmoud Ismail, was admitted to hospital in Qana for the operation on the ureter, but apparently the surgeons have removed the kidney as well while the man was still under anaesthesia without asking anyone's permission. According to the paper, the kidney was urgently needed to be planted in another patient for saving his life. It took Mr. Ismail 10 days to discover that he was robbed of a kidney, the paper said. It said that he felt severe pain and subsequent examination revealed that it was due to the loss of the kidney. Though the surgeons in question denied knowledge of this, hospital sources said that a kidney transplant actually took place in the same hospital on the same day.

Israeli workers pelt Kahane with eggs

TEL AVIV (R) — Hundreds of Israeli workers at an office building pelted followers of anti-Arab parliamentarian Rabbi Meir Kahane with eggs and tomatoes and shouted "Nazi, Nazi" when he tried to talk. Kahane said he and a small band of followers were protesting at what he described as the anti-religious policy of the Kibbutz Collective Settlement Movement, which has offices in the seven-storey building. Police broke up several clashes and army units arrived later to maintain order. Kahane alleged that the left-wing kibbutz movement had sought to undermine Jewish religious values among Sephardi immigrants from North Africa and Arab countries over the years.

U.K. announces new anti-smoking measures

LONDON (R) — The British government has announced new measures to curb cigarette smoking which claims an estimated 100,000 deaths a year. The measures included new health warnings to be printed on cigarette packets spelling out the risks associated with smoking. The new measures caution that smoking can cause heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis and is particularly dangerous for pregnant women.

Marcos' mother owes \$57,000 hospital bill

MANILA (R) — The 93-year-old mother of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos is occupying an entire floor of a government hospital to which she owes more than a million pesos, the hospital's director said. Esperanza Cabral, director of the Philippine Heart Centre, told Reuters the bill for Dona Josefa Edralin Marcos has reached 1.14 million pesos (\$57,000). The Information Ministry said in a statement that President Corason Aquino had agreed to pay the bill on humanitarian grounds. Cabral said Mrs. Marcos was not seriously ill but had used the hospital as her home for more than eight years. "The old lady really has no serious ailment except those attributable to old age. She is weak and has poor eyesight. Sometimes her blood pressure acts up. But she is not bed-ridden," she said. Asked if she were still coherent, Cabral said: "She knows who she is and where she is. But at 93, you can expect some mental lapses."

FBI, police announce child porn busts

NEW YORK (AP) — A teacher and a boy scout leader were among 10 men arrested in three states in loosely connected rings that lured children to sex parties or distributed child pornography, authorities said Friday. The arrests, which began Friday night and continued through Sunday, were announced at a news conference by the FBI, the U.S. attorney's office and local officials from New York City and Middlesex County, New Jersey. One ring used cash, drugs and alcohol to lure children as young as age 6 to parties where they were sexually abused and another distributed pornographic material between Florida and a Greenwich Village bookstore catering to pedophiles, officials said.

9 die in Punjab security sweep

NEW DELHI (R) — Nine people, including four extremists, died in Punjab in the past 24 hours as security forces went on the offensive after a string of violent attacks, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI said the extremists died in a clash Monday night with paramilitary forces coming a village in Amritsar district bordering Pakistan. Sixteen other extremists escaped, it said.

The deaths brought to 19 the number of people killed in the state since Sunday in attacks by Sikh extremists fighting for an

independent nation, clashes between Hindus and Sikhs and security operations.

PTI said security men also persuaded militant Sikhs led by the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) to lift a week-long siege on Batala after extremists gunned down a Hindu and a Sikh on the industrial town's outskirts Monday.

Batala, near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, was cut off from food supplies on Tuesday when hundreds of Sikhs armed with swords and staves blockaded the incoming roads in protest against all-

eged Hindu attacks on their shrines.

But the Tribune, Punjab's main English language newspaper, said the siege had not been completely lifted and Sikhs were still blocking four roads.

It said former Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a leader of the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, visited Batala Monday.

The Punjab government of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala has come under fire for failing to curb the communal clashes and violence.

U.K. tries new extradition request for IRA suspect

LONDON (R) — The British government, under fire for the botched attempt to extradite its most wanted guerrilla suspect from Ireland last weekend, has submitted a new request to bring her to London for questioning.

The latest application to extradite suspected Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla Evelyn Glenholmes was made after reports that she might already have been smuggled out of Ireland and be on her way to the United States.

Glenholmes, wanted in connection with three murders and several bombings in Britain, was freed twice in four hours by Dublin courts which ruled British extradition warrants were technically invalid.

British Home Secretary (Int-

erior Minister) Douglas Hurd told parliament to opposition jeers Monday the failure to extradite Glenholmes had "very serious consequences" but rejected calls for senior government law officers to resign.

Opposition Labour Party spokesman Gerald Kaufmann accused the government of handing the IRA a propaganda triumph and said the director of public prosecutions and attorney-general, two senior law officials, should consider resignation.

Mr. Hurd did not contradict parliamentarians who criticised the Dublin courts for allowing the 27-year-old woman to go free rather than adjourning the hearings while the extradition papers were put in order.

Haiti protesters to escalate campaign

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Street fires flickered into the early hours Tuesday as young protesters vowed to bring down the six-week-old government of Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy.

The pop of rifle and machine-gun fire echoed through the night in this capital but there were no reports of deaths or injuries. Witnesses said it appeared that police and soldiers in pick-up trucks were mainly firing into the air to enforce the curfew.

Journalists who toured the more troubled districts before midnight found mostly deserted streets.

The demonstrators, including a newly formed group composed of journalists, students and young priests called the Committee to Ignite Democracy (CID) are seeking to replace the Namphy-led ruling council with an interim civilian government.

"We don't want any trouble, but we will escalate this campaign until the military government steps down," said one young leader of a band of men in their late teens and twenties setting fires, rubbish bins and packing crates on fire in a run-down district about four blocks from the National Palace.

Mobs of youths set rubbish fires at scores of intersections throughout the Haitian capital Monday night to press their demands for formation of a civilian government. Squads of firemen and soldiers raced through the streets to fight the burning barricades.

The fires, their pitch black smoke obscuring the sunset, ended Monday's anti-government protests that began with a peaceful march on the palace by as many as 15,000 people.

In between, Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy, the president of the ruling council that took over Haiti after the flight of dictator Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, went on national radio and renewed a pledge to usher the beleaguered Caribbean nation toward democracy.

Gen. Namphy also announced a series of ministerial appointments that were viewed by Western diplomats and political observers as another in a series of bids to stem public outcry against the military-dominated rule.

On Friday, the 53-year-old career soldier, who has the backing of the United States, dismissed three members of the council with past links to Duvalier or his more notorious father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

Both the morning marchers and the evening fire starters said they would continue to demonstrate for the establishment of a civilian government.

Nicaraguan troops cross Honduran border

WASHINGTON (R) — Nicaraguan troops have crossed the Honduran border to fight anti-Sandinista rebels based there and Honduras is requesting U.S. aid to deal with the situation, a key congressman said Tuesday.

Representative Thomas Foley, assistant Democratic leader in the House of Representatives and an opponent of President Reagan's unsuccessful request for \$100 million of assistance for the rebels, predicted Congress would quickly approve aid for Honduras in this case.

"We are being asked to assist Honduran forces in resisting that attack and I think there will be virtually unanimous support in Congress to provide the assistance that is being requested," Mr. Foley, of Washington state, said on ABC television.

ABC reported that Mr. Reagan will ask Congress to transfer \$20 million for Honduras to help it fight the Nicaraguan troops.

The television network said unidentified Reagan administration officials confirmed that Nicaraguan troops had crossed the Coco River into Honduras on Saturday and were battling the rebels, the so-called Contras, who are fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

But a State Department spokesman said he could not provide independent confirmation of the incident and said he had no information of a Honduran aid request.

The Washington Post, citing diplomats in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said heavy fighting was reported near the Contra bases inside Honduras after some 1,400 Nicaraguan troops crossed the border.

The Nicaraguan army had massed its troops along the border and then penetrated nine to 12 miles inside, the Post said. So far, Nicaraguan and Honduran troops have not engaged each other, it said.

Out of Africa sweeps 7 academy awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — The \$30-million epic Out of Africa has swept up seven Oscars, including one for best picture, leaving Hollywood's "wonder boy" Stephen Spielberg out in the cold.

An unsung Spielberg, director of several box office blockbusters, went down to defeat Monday night in one of the biggest Oscar upsets.

While Out of Africa was collecting its seven Oscars, Spielberg watched his film of life in the American south, the Colour Purple, run through 11 nominations without winning a single award at the star-studded ceremony.

Many film industry officials felt the Oscar judges, the 4,223 film industry members of the conservative Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, were again making a personal statement against Spielberg, whose films include such giant moneymakers as Jaws, E.T. and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

For 61-year-old Geraldine Page, regarded as one of the finest U.S. dramatic actresses, it was a night of glory. She finally won an Oscar after being nominated eight times.

"It's the role that did it," declared Page of her part as the hymn-singing old woman determined to return to her Texas hometown in the Trip to Bountiful.

"I thought I should have got an

Oscar for the other seven nominations as well," she added with a laugh, displaying her Oscar for Best Actress.

A sentimental favourite was 75-year-old Don Ameche, a star of 50 films spread over 50 years, who also finally won his first Oscar for his breakthrough role in the science fiction film Cocoon.

"I appreciate being around as long as I have," he said.

A serious William Hurt won the Best Actor Award for his role as a homosexual window dresser in the Brazilian film Kiss of the Spider Woman.

But 38-year-old Spielberg, who recently married actress Amy Irving, was the big talking point. Snubbed personally by the academy for a nomination for Best Director, his film had still tied with Out of Africa with 11 nominations each.

Once again, the academy showed its liking for big epics such as Out of Africa, the story of Danish aristocrat Karen Blixen's love for Africa and about the men in her life.

Sydney Pollack won Oscars for Best Director and, as the producer of Out of Africa, for Best Picture. In contrast, comedienne Whoopi Goldberg, nominated for an Oscar for Best Actress for her role as the black wife who overcomes a brutalising marriage in the Colour Purple, had to be content with



Spielberg 'in the cold'

announcing the award for Best Film Editing.

The Colour Purple had been criticised by a group calling itself the Coalition Against Black Exploitation on the grounds it portrayed black men as brutal and black women as loose, ignorant and servile — charges angrily refuted by Goldberg.

Spielberg is believed to have upset some academy purists by authorising the selling of dolls, video games and other merchandise linked to his films.

Other academy members have dismissed his blockbusters as children's films.

Another casualty was "Prizzi's Honour," a black comedy of life in the mafia, which had also been expected to do well, but ended with only one Oscar — to Anjelica Huston for Best Supporting Actress.



Richie wins Oscar

Her father, 79-year-old John Huston, had been nominated as Best Director for the film and her companion and co-star Jack Nicholson was up for his third Oscar, for Best Actor.

Paul Newman, nominated six times for an Oscar without ever winning, received an Honorary Academy Award "in recognition of his many memorable and compelling screen performances."

Australian Director Peter Weir's film Witness, a contrast in lifestyles between that of a tough, big-city detective and the unburied Amish community, won two Oscars, for Best Original Screenplay and for Best Film Editing.